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Will They Meet Again?

Huskers looking ahead to possible rematch after Longhorns escape with victory



Brian Hill

A FRIEND SAID in an e-mail last week that although he'd like to see Nebraska beat Texas, he would rather the Huskers knock off the Longhorns in Kansas City in December.

That attitude no doubt was shared by many others who believe Nebraska can win the Big 12 North and face probable South Division winner Texas Dec. 2 at Arrowhead Stadium.

The Huskers took advantage of such a rematch in 1999. After losing, 24-20, at Texas earlier in the season, NU came back to win the conference championship game, 22-6, in San Antonio. That victory is Nebraska's only one in the series since the inception of the Big 12 Conference.

It was oh so close to being two.

With the wind chill in the 20s and snow starting to look like more than flurries, Nebraska warmed up a record crowd of 85,187 with an inspiring fourth quarter rally to take a 20-19 lead with 4:54 remaining.

After forcing a Texas punt, the Huskers appeared to be in great shape to finish off the upset when Zac Taylor hit Terrence Nunn with a third down pass that would have given NU a first down and most likely allowed it to run out the clock. But Nunn fumbled as he was hit by Texas cornerback Aaron Ross, and UT's Marcus Griffin recovered at the NU 45 with 2:17 remaining.

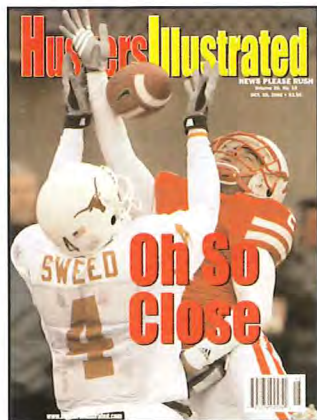
ON THE COVER

Nebraska cornerback Cortney Grixby knocks away a pass intended for Texas receiver Limas Sweed in the end zone in the third quarter. Two plays later, the Longhorns missed a field goal, but they would make one with 23 seconds remaining to edge NU 22-20. Cover photo by Scott Bruhn.

The play was eerily similar to one in the Texas Tech game last October, when defensive tackle Le Kevin Smith intercepted a deflected pass late in the game. Smith fumbled as he was tackled, Tech recovered and went on to score with 12 seconds remaining to take a 34-31 victory.

This time around, the Longhorns would drive to the NU 5, where backup kicker Ryan Bailey hit a game-winning 22-yard field goal.

That the Longhorns were forced to use a kicker attempting his first field goal added to the drama in the 22-20 thriller. You can read much, much more about the classic finish in this edition of Huskers Illustrated.



Junior cornerback Cortney Grixby, shown on the cover knocking a pass away from Texas standout Limas Sweed, is the subject of "Spotlight," and long snapper T.J. O'Leary, the son of former Husker I-back John O'Leary answers "10 Questions."

Our "Recruiting Through the Years" series focuses on tight end Jamie Williams, a member of the 1978 recruiting class, who was successful at NU and

went on to a 12-year career in the NFL.

One of the most successful former Huskers, 1983 Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier, was honored at halftime for his upcoming induction into the College Football Hall of Fame.

Nebraska spent the intermission period making adjustments after Texas appeared to take control in the second quarter, sacking Taylor three times and intercepting a pass.

But the Longhorns were unable to extend their 16-7 halftime cushion, and a scoreless third quarter set the stage for the dramatic finish that gave the Huskers a great shot at the upset and optimism looking ahead to a possible rematch.

But it certainly won't be easy to get there. ■

Huskers Illustrated

www.huskersillustrated.com

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Huskers Illustrated

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Ask Jamie Williams (above) what made Tom Osborne a good recruiter, and he'll probably describe an Osborne visit to his home in Davenport, Iowa — the "hood" in Davenport. By Mike Babcock

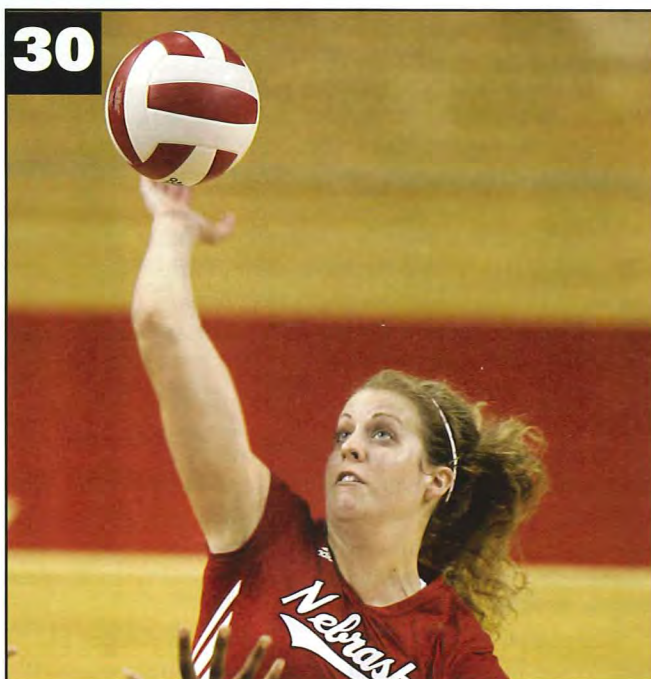
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Fall Preview

Typically, Nebraska baseball coach Mike Anderson has a good sense of his team by the end of fall practice. There might be "a few surprises," he said. But "I wouldn't say too many. I think our preparation and our understanding of our team is pretty good when we start (season practice)."

There have been notable exceptions, however, such as when Anderson decided in the fall of 2002 he would platoon freshmen Chase Odenreider and Alex Gordon at third base. That despite the fact Gordon batted .365 with two home runs and 15 runs-batted-in during his first fall at Nebraska.

"It took me about three or four games to figure out I was probably wrong," Anderson said of the platoon plan. Check that, he added, not "probably" wrong; "I was wrong."

Most of the time, however, he comes away from fall with a good understanding of how players will fit in, and "we just need to be able to sustain our growth and continue," he said. "When we have good years, we continue to grow as a team. When we have average years, I think we're prepared, we just stay stagnant. I think that comes with how we evaluate. So we don't really get caught off guard."

Among the things of which Anderson is certain based on the Huskers' recently completed fall practice is that infielder Steve Edlefsen will no longer be switch-hitting. The junior from Bloomington, Minn., by way of Barton County (Kan.) Community College, will just bat from the right side.

"His left-handed days are done," said Anderson. "He wasn't very efficient that way."

Anderson is equally adamant that Edlefsen will do some pitching. He and junior Thad Weber, a transfer from Hutchinson (Kan.) Community College, both will be used in late relief or as closers.

Weber, like Edlefsen, is listed as an infielder.

Weber has "a great curveball," Anderson said, while Edlefsen has a 93-mph fastball. He underwent Tommy John surgery after his freshman season in junior college and missed his second season while recovering. That's why he was a sophomore in eligibility in his first season at Nebraska.

The plan was always to use Edlefsen as a pitcher, but "I had to see him," said Anderson. "He's a little crazy. It's



Mike Anderson



Steve Edlefsen



Jake Opitz

out there. You know 'Eddie.' He goes 150 percent."

A 93-mph fastball with movement is a good place to start.

"If he can throw it in the strike zone, now we've got something," Anderson said.

WHITES HAVE IT

The teams were balanced for a competitive Red-White series to complete fall practice. The three-game series was a slugfest, with the White team winning games one and three, 15-7 and 18-10, while the Red team won the second game 11-3. Red team second baseman Jake Opitz, a junior from Littleton, Colo., was the leading hitter in the series, batting .500 and scoring seven runs.

Junior Andy Gerch and sophomore Jake Mort led the White in the opening game. Gerch went 3-for-5 with a home run and three runs-batted-in. Mort was 3-for-3 with four runs scored and two RBIs.

Also, newcomers Craig Corriston, a junior college transfer, and DJ Belfonte, a freshman, each had two hits and combined to drive in five runs for the White team, which had 17 hits.

Senior Andrew Brown hit two home runs, drove in four runs and scored four runs to back the pitching of sophomore Dan Jennings, senior Mike Harmelink and Edlefsen for the Red team in the second game.

Sophomore Nick Sullivan and Weber led a 13-hit, White team attack with three hits apiece in the third game. Sullivan hit one of the game's four home runs and drove in six runs. Weber hit a home run and drove in five. Opitz was 4-for-5 with a home run and three RBIs for the Red team, which also got a home run from freshman Dominic Piazza as the Red team out-hit the White team 15-13.

Pitchers Tony Watson, Johnny Dorn, Charlie Shirek and Luke Wertz and all-conference shortstop Ryan Wehrle were held out of the Red-White series. With Wehrle out, Anderson had to find another shortstop. That will help as far as depth at the position in the spring.

"From a just-in-case standpoint, if Wehrle's hurt, whatever," Mort can play shortstop "very well," Anderson said, as can Edlefsen, Weber and Corriston, a transfer from Paris (Texas) College.

Corriston is a "great utility guy. I think I can put him anywhere," said Anderson — second base, third base, shortstop and the outfield. "I think we can put guys in different spots, give some guys some rest so we don't have to put so much pressure on them on the offensive end." ■

Quick Hits

NEW LOOK

Sophomore offensive tackle Matt Slauson showed up for practice the week of the Kansas State game with a Mohawk haircut. Part of the reason was that he had been growing his hair out and had gotten "mad at it," he said. "If you have your hair shaved for a long time and then when you get hair back, it gets all hot and itchy. It's uncomfortable," said Slauson. "So I had to cut it."

He didn't shave it completely, however, leaving the strip down the middle in an attempt to "get a rise out of" offensive line coach Dennis Wagner, who hadn't taken kindly to tackle Lydon Murtha's hairstyles, or color schemes, last season. "Murtha would come in with hair that was just wild," Slauson said. "He had his hair dyed black except for this one streak on the top was white, and Coach Wagner made him shave it. Then in spring ball, he came in with it dyed red, and he (Wagner) made him dye it black."

"So I was just seeing what 'Wags' would say to me."

Wagner's response to the Mohawk was unexpected.

"He said, 'Hey, Slauson, nice hat. I like it,'" said Slauson.

Wagner told Slauson he "used to don one of those myself in my younger days."

Slauson's haircut was no surprise. "Matt's always got something up his sleeve," Wagner said. "He's kind of the character of our group. We make fun of him on game day. It's kind of fun to watch him eat because he diets so hard to keep his weight down, and then it's like he thinks, 'Well, I've got all these meals, Friday pre-game and Saturday pre-game,' and he just pounds the food."

"Then he starves, which isn't good for your body. But that's what he does."



Matt Slauson

Huskers' Jordan Larson was the conference player of the week the previous week. Sarah Pavan also has earned the honor this season.

SIMPLY THE BEST

Brittany Timko has one more soccer match at home for sure. The Huskers are scheduled to wrap up the regular season against Loyola-Chicago on Oct. 25 at the Nebraska Soccer Field before traveling to San Antonio, Texas, for the Big 12 Championship tournament Nov. 1-5.

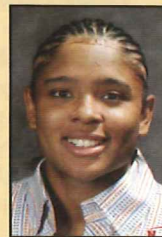
Timko, a senior from Coquitlam, British Columbia, Canada, is "probably the best all-around player that we've had," coach John Walker told the Lincoln Journal Star recently. Timko has been selected as the conference player of the year twice and is almost certain to be so honored for a third time.

MORE PRESEASON RECOGNITION

Senior Kiera Hardy, who earlier received preseason All-America honorable mention from Street & Smith magazine, has been included on the preseason All-Big 12 basketball team, along with Lyndsey Medders of Iowa State, Morenike Atunrase of Texas A&M, Tiffany Jackson of Texas and Courtney Paris of Oklahoma. All five players were first-team all-conference selections in 2005-06.

Hardy is looking to become only the third Husker ever to earn first-team all-conference recognition three times. Karen Jennings and Maurice Ivy were the others.

Hardy also is looking to join Jennings and Ivy as Nebraska's only 2,000-point career scorers. She has scored 1,416 points and averaged 15.6 points per game during her first three seasons.



Kiera Hardy

FALL FINISHED

The Nebraska softball team wrapped up its fall schedule with a pair of victories on the second day of the Worth Classic in South Bend, Ind. The Huskers defeated Michigan 3-0 in the first game, behind the pitching of Molly Hill, and then defeated Western Michigan 1-0, with Alex Hupp tossing a one-hit shutout. Nebraska lost twice on the first day of the tournament, 2-1 against Notre Dame and 5-3 against Illinois-Chicago. Hill was the losing pitcher in the first game, Ashley DeBuhr in the second.

Sophomore Brittany Pascale drove in five runs during the four games, including both game-winners as the Huskers finished the fall season with an 8-4 record. Spring practice will begin in January, with the Huskers opening the 2007 season at the Paradise Invitational in Honolulu, Hawaii, Feb. 8-11.

CROSS COUNTRY

The Husker women finished sixth, while the men finished 11th at the Chile Pepper Cross Country Festival at Fayetteville, Ark., in mid-October.

Junior Channing Anseth led the women, finishing 25th with a career-best 21:06.8 over the 6K course. Six of the Huskers' seven finishers among the top 100 ran career-best times. In addition to Anseth, Nebraska's finishers included: Ari Goldstein (37), Betsy Miller (44), Kim Pancoast (57), Natalja Zarcenko (58), Jennifer Pancoast (86), Joslyn Dalton (87), Elizabeth Marsh (166) and Val Zajac (248).

Sophomore Brian Parr led the Husker men, finishing 41st over the 10K course. The others were: Peter van der Westhuizen (53), Alec Maduza (95), Kyle Custer (119), Vince Sickler (131), Bryce Dickmeyer (156), Ethan Luebbe (203), Mackenzie Jeffrey (222), Bryce Somer (237) and Tom Johnson (246).

The Huskers will wrap up the season at the Big 12 Championships at Lawrence, Kan., Oct. 27.



Channing Anseth

BIG 12 RELAYS

The Nebraska swimming and diving team finished in a tie for fifth with Iowa State at the Big 12 Relays, to which it played host in mid-October. The Huskers' best finish was third place in the 150-yard breaststroke relay, a team that included freshmen Kaitlin Arntz and Hailey Dean and junior Adrienne Goodman, who swam the anchor. The time was 1:33.22. Arntz also swam on five of Nebraska's six fourth-place finishers.

Texas A&M won the women's competition, followed by Texas. The Huskers competed in dual meets with the Aggies and Longhorns the same weekend, losing to the former 178-117 and to the latter 144-81. Against Texas, senior Lauren Bailey won the 1,650-yard freestyle and the 500-yard freestyle while senior Kate Wheeler won the 200-yard freestyle. Against A&M, Wheeler won the 500-yard freestyle and the 200-yard freestyle, and Bailey won the 1,000-yard freestyle. Sophomore Courtney Jolly won the one- and three-meter dives.

INVITE CHAMPS

True freshman Kate White and junior Elli Brown finished first and second individually to lead the Husker women's golf team to the championship of the 17-team team Bronco Invitational in Boise, Idaho. The Huskers finished with a three-round, school-record 884-stroke total.

White, from Waukegan, Ill., tied the school record with an opening-round 67 and finished with a two-over-par 73 for a 213 total and medalist honors. Brown was three shots behind, at 216.

The University of California-Davis went into the final round tied with the Huskers but finished eight strokes back in second place.

Nebraska's other finishers: JC Stevenson, No. 13, 227; Chrissie McArdle, Andrea Carlson (Dunagan), No. 14 (tie), 228; Megan Place, No. 58, 246. Carlson (Dunagan) played as an individual.



Kate White

RIFLE RESULTS

The Nebraska rifle team opened its season with a victory against Mississippi and a loss against Army. Senior Stacy Underwood won the air rifle competition with a career-best 589 against Ole Miss, while Kirsten Weiss shot 577 to lead in smallbore. Underwood, from Anaheim, Calif., improved her career-best with 590 to win the air rifle against Army, and she finished third in smallbore to lead the Huskers. ■

HOLLOWAY HONORED

Setter Rachel Holloway was named the Big 12 volleyball player of the week after averaging 16 assists, two digs, 1.17 kills and 0.83 blocks in victories against No. 15-ranked Missouri and Colorado. Holloway is a redshirted freshman from Franklin, Tenn. The

Not That Difficult

New basketball coach says being 'brutally honest' is 'the only way you can deal with people'



Mike BABCOCK

THE WORD WAS "improvisational." And it was the basis of a question directed at Nebraska basketball coach Doc Sadler. Paraphrased, the question had to do with how he could keep his offense from becoming too improvisational when players are allowed to make decisions about when to shoot?

Sadler responded with a question of his own: "What's that word again?"

Satisfied that he understood its meaning, he answered.

"I have no problem letting people know what I think," he said. "We're going to shoot the best shot that's open quick. And I'll be the one that lets them know what that's going to be.

"That's my job offensively. They're going to know."

He repeated what he had said at a recent clinic for high school coaches, which drew about 150 participants, some six or seven times as many as the previous year. If the four teammates on the court at the time someone shoots know that he's going to shoot, then it's probably a good shot. However, "if he's the only one who knows he's going to shoot it, then we're going to have some issues," Sadler said.

Freedom to shoot isn't equal opportunity. "I'm not going to let everyone shoot it," he said. "You may be wide open at 15 feet, and they'll all be yelling at you to 'shoot, shoot, shoot.' But if you were here yesterday, I already told one guy, 'You can't shoot. So you want to shoot? Let me see you in here three or four hours a day, working on your shot. Then I'll evaluate you in a month.'"

Sadler wouldn't identify the player, but "I've evaluated; he can't shoot. I told him, 'You're a passer. You're a rebounder. You're a defender, if you want to play. If you shoot it . . . I don't care if he makes it; I've told him he can't shoot it. We'll see if he listens. So it's not that difficult.'"

Sadler's approach isn't difficult to understand, either. "I think some of you have gotten to know me," he said during a news conference on the afternoon before the Cornhuskers officially began practice. "I expect you guys to be brutally honest. If we play terrible, report we played terrible."

Likewise, "I have no problem with being terribly honest, or brutally honest, with those guys (players)," he said. "I think that's the only way you can deal with people."

As a result, Sadler didn't downplay the limitations of his first Nebraska team. He's concerned about its lack of height, of course, and less obviously, about its athleticism, speed.

"It's not where I was hoping it might be," he said.

The Cornhuskers can compensate with hard work and technique. But when "you start relying on technique and things like that, I'm not for sure how good you can be," said Sadler.

"I think you've got to have players that can go do things on their own. But because of our size, we've got to help them out in that area. You can't change the size of them. It is what it is. So we're not going to spend any time worrying about that. What we are going to worry about are some things I think we can make a difference in. And, as I said, the main one is, we're going to play hard."

Preseason workouts were limited to some degree by injuries. Jamel White, Kyle Marks, Marcus Perry and Paul Velander were sidelined, leaving only nine players and forcing Sadler to adjust.

"If anything, I backed off the last week or 10 days," he said. "Guys, I can talk about being a tough dude all I want to, but the fact of the matter is, we've got to get guys on the floor. I'm not King Kong. I don't have to sit up here and convince people I'm going to be a tough guy. That's ego.

"I've got to be smart about it. If we had everybody, my practices would be a lot longer than they're going to be. I can sit there and say, 'We're going to practice for three hours.' Well, I don't care what kind of condition they're in; they can't get through a three-hour practice at that level."

A better approach might be to practice three times for an hour or so each, he said.

Whatever the length, his practices are intense, with no time wasted.

Fans had an opportunity to observe that first-hand. About 3,000 showed up to watch the opening practice (Photos on Page 34) on the night before the football team played at Kansas State.

Sadler's enthusiasm hasn't diminished since he was introduced in early August. He has opened the doors to his program and invited everyone in. And he hasn't improvised.

"The challenge is probably a little bit bigger than maybe I knew at the time because maybe I didn't know much," he said. "We've still got a long ways to go, but I think we're going in the right direction.

"I think good things are around the corner. I just hope that corner is not a big corner." ■



Doc Sadler took over as basketball coach on Aug. 8.

Mike Babcock is a former sports columnist for the Lincoln Journal Star. He has covered Nebraska football for nearly 30 years. Mike can be reached at MBABCOCK1@neb.rr.com or P.O. Box 6782, Lincoln, NE 68506.

Hardly A Fluke

Talented Oklahoma State wide receiver Bowman had shown signs he was capable of a big game



Curt McKEEVER
the Tar Heels.

JOE DAILEY NEVER GOT THE CHANCE to throw to Adarius Bowman. If he had, the former Husker quarterback might have had a better chance of hanging on to the starting job at North Carolina this season.

Dailey's loss has turned out to be Bobby Reid's gain at Oklahoma State, where the 6-foot-4, 220-pound wide receiver Bowman transferred to following two seasons with

the Tar Heels. At Kansas on Oct. 14, Reid and Bowman hooked up 13 times for 300 yards and four touchdowns to rally the Cowboys from a 17-0 second-half deficit to a 42-32 victory.

Bowman's receiving total was 11th best in NCAA Division I-A history and an all-time Big 12 Conference mark.

"He wasn't saying much to me in the huddle. We just went with our playbook, and it just so happened Kansas double-covered D'Juan (Woods)," said Reid, who threw for 411 yards. "When that happened, Bowman was open, and Kansas couldn't tackle him."

During an explosive 16-minute stretch of the second half, Bowman had touchdown receptions of 54, 25, 55 and 64 yards to give the Cowboys a 35-25 lead.

"He made plays, and we could barely contest him," KU coach Mark Mangino said, before giving Bowman an ultimate sign of respect. "He gets my vote for the Heisman."

It'll take more than one game for the talented junior to put his name in the hat. But after the contest against the Jayhawks, Bowman was leading the nation in receiving yards (123.8 per contest) and in yards per catch (22.5).

"It was a phenomenal day," OSU offensive coordinator Larry Fedora told reporters in Oklahoma two days after the Cowboys improved their record to 4-2. "You don't expect days like that. I've been in a lot of situations with really good receivers, and none of them have ever had a day like that. The stars were aligned, and everything fell into place."

Nonetheless, Bowman's big performance was hardly a fluke. In his fourth game as a Cowboy, he latched on to seven of Reid's passes for 166 yards.

Once, when he was playing at Notre Dame High in Chattanooga, Tenn., Bowman had 308 receiving yards in a game.

"He's fast, but he has the opportunity to make a lot of big plays because he's 230 pounds and has great balance," said Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy, who holds the school's single-game passing record of 429 yards. "People bounce off him. And, obviously, he's a very competitive

athlete. A player like him makes you look a lot different on offense."

Bowman came out of high school ranked by ESPN's Tom Lemming as the nation's fifth-best wide receiver.

At North Carolina, he played in all 12 games as a true freshman, and in two seasons had 28 catches for 510 yards and five scores.

However, after six games of his sophomore season, Bowman was indefinitely suspended following an arrest for possession of marijuana. Charges were eventually dismissed, but Bowman was ready for a change of scenery. And not surprisingly, Bowman became a Cowboy shortly after the coach who recruited him to Carolina, Gunter Brewer, joined Gundy's staff at Oklahoma State.

Naturally, Bowman's performance against Kansas held extra meaning to the OSU receivers coach.

"My adopted son had the day I've always been waiting for him to have," said Brewer, who when he was at Marshall coached Randy Moss, now a Pro-Bowler with Oakland.

Bowman's arrival in Stillwater has given the Cowboys the kind of talent they needed to compliment D'Juan Woods. As a junior last year, Woods earned second-team All-Big 12 honors while hauling in 56 passes for 879 yards and eight touchdowns.

Woods finds himself facing double-team coverage more, because he's an outside receiver. Working from the inside slot gives Bowman more opportunities to beat single coverage.

Against Kansas, at least, that was the case.

"It's like we expected, that teams were going to try and stop D'Juan," Reid said. "They really don't have a clue of what (Bowman) is capable of

doing. It's good to have a 1-2 punch. Today was AD's day."

Bowman's outing led to Reid finishing with a school-record 457 yards of total offense. Gundy had set the old standard of 434 yards in a 1989 game against Kansas.

"That stinks," Gundy joked when told Reid's final pass, a 25-yarder to Woods for a score, knocked him from the top spot. "I didn't know that. But if I did, I wouldn't have called the last pass play."

Halfway through the season, with Bowman and Co. doing big business, the Cowboys ranked No. 7 nationally in scoring at 38.2 points per game and No. 10 in total offense at 432.2 yards.

Bowman is hoping he and his teammates can continue delivering like they did against Kansas.

"I just told (Reid), 'Keep it goin', baby.' " Bowman said. "He kept it goin'." ■



Adarius Bowman had 13 catches for 300 yards against Kansas.

Curt McKeever is a sportswriter for the Lincoln Journal Star. In addition to reporting on football, he is the primary beat writer for baseball. Curt can be reached at cmckeever@journalstar.com

'It Was About

Snow didn't stop Osborne from visiting recruit in the 'hood'

By Mike Babcock

Ask Jamie Williams what made Tom Osborne a good recruiter, and he'll probably describe an Osborne visit to his home in Davenport, Iowa — the "hood" in Davenport.

Snow is falling, with near blizzard conditions. The temperature is frigid. The doorbell rings, and Williams' mom says, "Hey, Jamie, somebody's out there for you, I think."

Williams looks out the window and sees Osborne standing in the snow.

"You've got to be kidding," he thinks. "I just saw the guy on TV."

Though it happened only once exactly in that way, Williams remembers it as a continuing event, reflecting Osborne's commitment to doing the right thing. "A lot of guys can talk about it, but he did it," said Williams. "He'd come in that small house and talk about the future with me."

"How many cats would do that?"

Williams responds to the rhetorical question. No other coach would. Notre Dame's Dan Devine, for example, sent assistant coaches to Davenport. "I'll never forget that," Williams said.

"For me, it sets Tom apart. I hate to say this, but a lot of coaches try to

Eighth in a Series

manufacture; they read a couple of books or they see somebody and try to emulate as opposed to being what they believe in. That's what Tom was, Dr. Osborne. Whatever you saw, that was him. And he didn't ask permission."

He also didn't offer anything except an educational and athletic opportunity, with equal emphasis. Sure, the Cornhuskers were successful, with nine-win seasons, annual bowl trips and back-to-back national titles not long removed from Williams' senior year at Davenport Central High School.

But Osborne also talked about academics, a subject that appealed to Williams, the first in his family to attend college. Penn State, his second choice, was the only other school to do so.

"It was definitely a culture shock that schools were actually talking to me about paying for my education. It took me a while to get my arms around that," said Williams.

Not once did Osborne mention professional football, which was "kind of good because the pros were the last thing on my mind," Williams



said. "It was about a journey."

That journey, which is on-going, has included 12 NFL seasons. It also has included earning a doctorate in organization and leadership. He is

It A Journey'



Jamie Williams had 44 catches for 516 yards and seven touchdowns as a Husker.

was a high school All-America tight end with his pick of the top football programs in the country. In addition to Nebraska and Penn State, the schools that pursued him included Notre Dame, Texas and Tennessee, as well as "a host of others," he said.

Nebraska and Penn State "really rose everything else." And Nebraska had the edge mostly because of Osborne but also because "I didn't know much about the East Coast," said Williams.

He was among four prep All-Americans in the 1978 recruiting class. The others were Duke Vair from LaVista, Neb., Steve Damkroger from Lincoln, Neb., and Randy Theiss from St. Louis.

The NCAA lifted its restrictions on redshirting freshmen in 1978, creating concern about the future of Nebraska's freshman program. Typically, recruits played on the freshman team and then redshirted. But with the rule change, Osborne anticipated redshirting as much as half of class.

As it turned out, however, only five of the 22 scholarship freshmen in the class were redshirted: Williams, Damkroger, Dave Rimington, Steve McWhirter and Phil Trent.

Walk-on Todd Brown also was redshirted. Williams didn't know Brown had walked on until a Cornhusker reunion 25 years later. "He was really good. 'Who is this white kid with the blazing blond hair, running by everybody? Who is that guy?' I had no idea," Williams said.

Williams figured Osborne always intended to put Brown on scholarship, otherwise he wouldn't have redshirted the split end with sprinter's speed from Holdrege, Neb.

Brown lettered on the track team

as a freshman then concentrated on football.

Williams remembers that first season vividly. "It was cool," he said. "When I look back in my mind, it seems like the colors were brighter and the buildings were bigger. Everything was bigger and brighter. It was like your senses were more alive, more in tune. That's what I felt."

He spent a couple of practices with the freshmen then moved up to the varsity. That was "a culture shock," he said. "That's when you talk about being awestruck and somewhat intimidated. The guys across from you are All-Americans and All-Big Eight. And you're 18, fresh out of high school."

Williams often went against All-America defensive end George Andrews. "I could block everybody except George. I eventually got him in the pros," said Williams. "That's another story."

"But the rest of the cats, most of the guys we played against, were not as good as that." He and Brown "were scorching the varsity, at times, so it was frustrating that first year not to play."

He and Brown and the other freshmen who redshirted, except Trent, all lettered four consecutive seasons. Trent, like Brown, lettered on the track team and eventually left Nebraska.

"I remember trying to talk him out of it," Williams said of Trent's decision to leave.

Trent, a defensive back, wasn't the only one, of course. Another left before classes began, "just gave up his scholarship and went home," Williams said. "For some reason, he didn't want to compete."

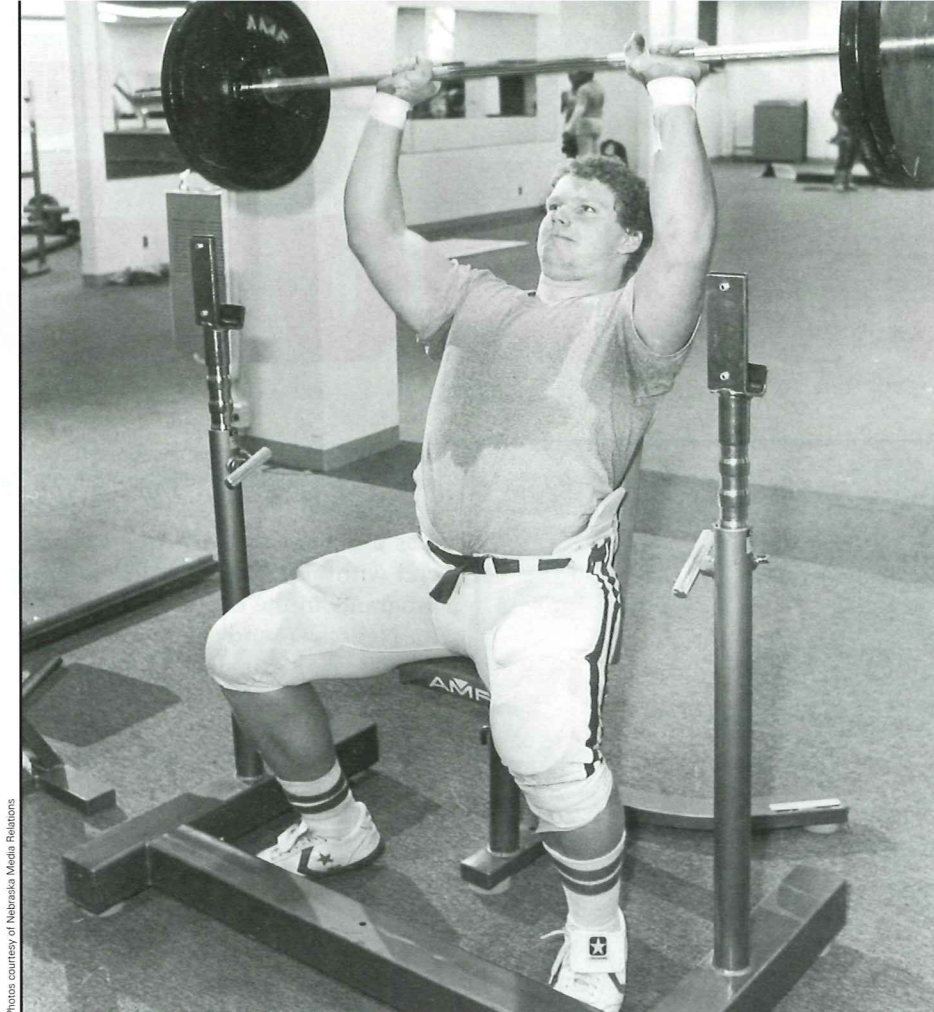
"As Al Pacino says, 'I can't make you want it. I can't make you do it.'"

Williams wanted it, and more importantly, he did it.

Brown wasn't the only walk-on in

the founder and CEO of YMotion Media, Inc. And he is the director of athletics at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco.

Nearly 30 years ago now, Williams



Photos courtesy of Nebraska Media Relations

Center Dave Rimington (above) was the most decorated offensive lineman in major college history. Guard Mike Mandelko (68, top left) and tackle Randy Theiss (65, lower left) joined Rimington as All-Big Eight picks in 1982.

the 1978 class to achieve success. Several others did, among them brothers Jimmy and Toby Williams and Tony Felici, a high school quarterback from Omaha who earned first-team all-conference recognition as a defensive end in 1981 and 1982.

Williams also was a two-time, first-team all-conference selection. Rimington was picked three times, while Damkroger, Theiss and Mike Mandelko were picked once each.

Jimmy Williams earned All-

Recruiting list, 1978

Player, Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	Letters
Donnie Bess, RB-DE-LB	6-2	200	Farmington, Mo.	1980
Anthony Bush, SE	5-10	170	Anniston, Ala.	
Steve Damkroger, LB-DE-FB	6-2	205	Lincoln, Neb.	1979-80-81-82
Brent Evans, FB-LB-DE	6-2	201	Chesterfield, Mo.	1980-81-82
Tom Gdowski, DT-OG	6-5	215	Fullerton, Neb.	1980-81-82
Kurt Glathar, OG-DT	6-2	230	Lincoln, Neb.	1981-82
Dan Hill, DE-TE	6-4	220	Falls City, Neb.	1982
*Jim Kelly, FB	5-11	220	Redwing, Minn.	
Jeff Kwapick, OT-DE-DT	6-4	230	Circle Pines, Minn.	1980-81-82
*Mark LeRoy, M	6-3	200	Seattle, Wash.	1978-79
Rick Lewis, LB-DE-TE	6-1	210	Wichita, Kan.	
Mike Mandelko, OG-MG	6-2	215	Lexington, Neb.	1980-81-82
Bruce Mathison, QB	6-3	195	Superior, Wis.	1981-82
Steve McWhirter, LB	6-3	225	Fairfield, Iowa	1979-80-81-82
Mike Meyer, OT-DT	6-4	220	Omaha	
*John Minor, DE-DT	6-3	220	Chicago, Ill.	
Scott Poppe, LB-DE	6-2	210	Hebron, Neb.	
Dave Rimington, C-DT	6-3	240	Omaha	1979-80-81-82
Mike Rhoden, CB	6-1	175	Anniston, Ala.	
Randy Theiss, OT-DT	6-4	245	St. Louis, Mo.	1980-81-82
Phil Trent, DB-WB-IB	6-0	185	Albuquerque, N.M.	
Duke Vair, IB-FB	6-3	210	LaVista, Neb.	
Kris Van Norman, M	6-2	190	Minden, Neb.	1980-81-82
Felix White, MG-DT	6-3	220	Lincoln, Neb.	
*Brent Williams, LB	6-2	210	Los Angeles	1978-79-80
Jamie Williams, TE-DE	6-5	200	Davenport, Iowa	1979-80-81-82

State breakdown: Nebraska 11, Missouri 3, Alabama 2, Iowa 2, Minnesota 2, California, Illinois, Kansas, New Mexico, Washington, Wisconsin.

*Junior college transfer

America honors as a senior in 1981, one of two members of the class to achieve that recognition. The other was Rimington, a center and the most decorated offensive lineman in major college history. In addition to being a two-time unanimous All-American, he won two Outland Trophies (the only two-time winner) and the Lombardi Award. And he was named the Big Eight "Offensive Player of the Year" as a junior in 1981.

Rimington also was a two-time Academic All-American.

The 1978 recruiting class formed the foundation for what was arguably Osborne's best team prior to the national championship run from 1994 through 1997. The 1982 team, with Rimington and Damkroger as captains, went 12-1, the only loss coming, with controversy, at Penn State, 27-24.

Had the current replay rule been in effect, that team might well have been the national champion. "We were pretty good, man. That was actually quite a time," Williams said.

When he played in the NFL, he often answered questions about Nebraska, posed by players Osborne had recruited from out of state but

who had gone elsewhere. "These cats all wanted to know what it was like," said Williams. "They would find you and want to know."

The Cornhuskers had a mystique. "It was considered out in the middle of nowhere, kind of a place where it gets cold," he said. "It was considered a place where there weren't a lot of people of color. But we'd come out, Roger (Craig), (Mike) Rozier and (Irving) Fryar, and been just as hip and just as fulfilled as anybody who went to (school in) the big city. And I thought they were very curious about that. I guess they thought we were going to come out and be cowboys or farmers or something."

Among other things, Williams became a disc jockey, spinning rhythm and blues for his own first-of-its-kind show on the student radio station. He drew up the proposal, borrowed record albums from teammates and made sure the public service announcements were read.

"People asked me about Nebraska. 'You had to be bored to death.' And I'm like, 'I had my own radio show. We were kicking it,' " he said. "The one thing about it is, nobody got in your way of being creative. It's another university in search of truth, so they're not going to get in your way."

Osborne showed him the way, as much by example as what he said. ■

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Part of the Job

Grixby says it's a matter of winning more battles than the receiver does

By Terry Douglass

#2 CORTNEY GRIXBY
JUNIOR CORNERBACK

Considering the difficulty and the scrutiny that comes with being a cornerback, one might wonder why anyone would even want to play the position.

But despite the many potential pitfalls, Nebraska's Cortney Grixby couldn't imagine playing anywhere else.

"It's a high-risk, high-reward type of position, and I just like the reward," said Grixby, a 5-foot-9, 170-pound junior from Omaha. "You always know there's high risk. If you mess up, people are going to be on you. If you do well, people will praise you."

"That's the way it is at every position, but especially at the corner position. You're on an island so much that you're always exposed, so it's easy for your mistakes to show a lot. That's just the nature of the position."

Regardless of how many interceptions or pass breakups he makes or how many times he provides solid coverage, Grixby is well aware that fans almost always seem to remember the plays that opposing receivers make against him. Again, Grixby said it's part of the job.

Obviously, cornerbacks can't afford to be thin-skinned. "Playing cornerback, you always have to have a short

memory," Grixby said. "Receivers are always going to catch balls, receivers are going to make plays against you — like the coaches always say, 'They're on scholarship, too' — so you have to have a short memory."

"It's just a matter of you winning more battles than he does. That's what makes you a good corner."

What also makes you a good cornerback, Grixby said, is executing proper technique. In fact, he said it's essential if you want to even have a chance to compete against the top-flight receivers in the Big 12 Conference.

"Playing corner is pretty much all about technique," Grixby said.

"When you have a receiver with just as much talent as and you and just as much athletic ability, the man that's going to win the battle is the one that's more sound with their technique."

"Technique is probably the most important thing about playing the cornerback position. If you don't have some type of technique, it won't work for you all the time. Your athletic ability can take over to a certain extent, but it can't carry you all the way."

As if playing cornerback isn't already difficult enough, Grixby shows up for every game with an added disadvantage that he can't do anything about, no matter how much he practices or studies video. At 5-9, Grixby often gives up several inches of height to opposing receivers.

"It's just something I've always had to deal with," Grixby said. "My mom and dad are short, so it's in the genes."



Scott Bruhn

"I just try to play to my strengths. My height is a liability, so it is what it is. I just try to make use of my strengths to just basically even out my weaknesses."

Nebraska cornerbacks coach Phil Elmassian said Grixby finds ways to hold his own.

"He's done everything right since he came here and stepped on the field," Elmassian said. "He's a competitive football player. He's competitive, intelligent — I know it sounds like a cliché, but that's what he is."

Despite Grixby's small stature, he recorded 10 pass breakups and an interception to help the Huskers rank in the top 15 nationally in pass efficiency defense last year. The Omaha Central graduate also earned honorable mention All-Big 12 honors.

Through his first seven games of the 2006 season, Grixby recorded one interception and five pass breakups.

"His height is his liability, but his strengths are tremendous," Elmassian said of Grixby. "You know how blind people have exceptional hearing?"

"(He has) his 39-inch vertical jump and his intelligence. He is a hell of an athlete. He's just shorter."

One aspect Grixby said he's never lacked has been confidence. It's a prerequisite to the job, he said.

"Your confidence gets to where you're out there just playing and you're not thinking," Grixby said. "That's one important thing. The discipline is going to come once you gain a knowledge of the game."

"From my freshman year to my junior year now, it's a whole big difference. You have a lot more confidence."

Possibly because of his height, Grixby said he's always felt the need to compete harder than the player he's matched up against.

"There are some talented receivers out there and most of them are six feet tall and above, so me being 5-9, I feel that I have to work a little bit harder," Grixby said. "I try to do that every time I get on the field."

Although he's still a junior, Grixby has taken on a leadership role in the secondary — something that fell even more squarely on his shoulders when fellow starting cornerback Zackary Bowman went down with a season-ending knee injury back in

August. The two-year letter-winner and second-year starter said he's most comfortable leading by example.

"I try to go out every day and just work as hard as I can and get some of my fellow teammates to work as hard," Grixby said. "We have some great players back there."

"(Andrew) Shanle and Tierre (Green) have experience, too, and Andre (Jones) is really picking it up, so I just try to lead by example."

Coming out of high school, Grixby's athletic ability was outstanding enough that he received recruiting interest from several big-name schools besides Nebraska. He also briefly considered Notre Dame,

UCLA, Iowa and Kansas State, before finally deciding to follow in the footsteps of his brother, DeAntae Grixby, and pick the Huskers.

"I really considered some other schools, but when it was all said and done, I knew this is where I wanted to be," Grixby said. "I grew up a Nebraska fan, so following in the footsteps of my older brother wasn't really a factor."

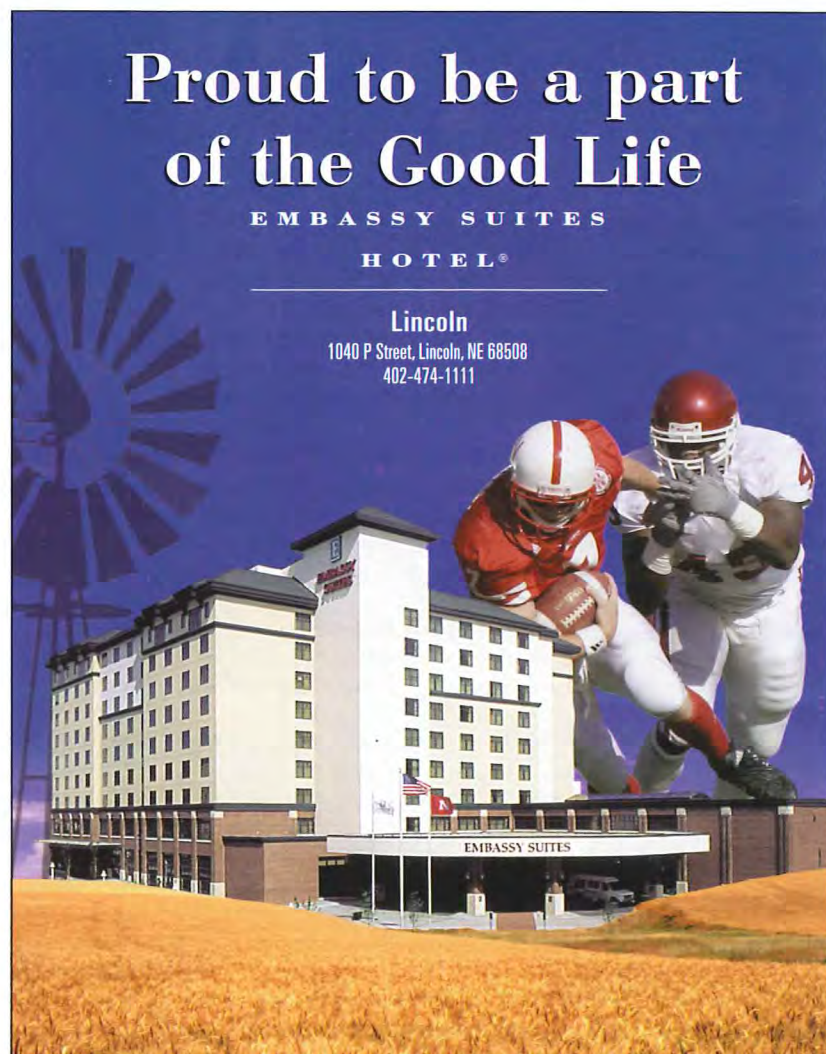
"Once I visited other places, I always compared it back to Nebraska and what I knew. If it didn't meet the standards here, then I knew that I wasn't going to go anywhere else." ■


Terry Douglass is the sports editor of the *Grand Island (Neb.) Independent*. He can be reached at terry.douglass@charter.net.

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10 QUESTIONS

with **T.J. O'LEARY**

**6-1/245 So. Long Snapper
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Scott Bruhn

For the most part, the stories T.J. O'Leary has heard about his dad's football career at Nebraska have been told to him by others. "My dad tells me I'm not old enough to hear the stories," he said.

John O'Leary earned letters on coach Tom Osborne's first three teams as an I-back. He also "was definitely a character," said T.J. "He still is a little bit of a character."

"Sometimes, he still thinks he's playing I-back. He's always giving me opinions and what he thinks. But they're valid. He usually knows what he's talking about. He's a big fan."

Now he can cheer for his son, too. T.J. began his college career at New Mexico State. His dad told him he could go to any school except Oklahoma or Colorado — or any other school in the former Big Eight, for that matter. But Oklahoma and Colorado topped the list. Old grudges die hard.

Former Cornhusker (and his dad's teammate) Tony Samuel was the Aggies' coach. But he was fired, and "it just really wasn't what I expected," T.J. said. Plus, "I was a little homesick."

So he transferred, figuring he would back up Lane Kelly after redshirting and have two seasons of eligibility as Nebraska's long-snapper. "So this year, getting any playing time is just a bonus," said O'Leary, who stepped in for an ailing Kelly at the start of conference play.

What do you remember about the first Nebraska game you ever went to?

"It was me, my dad and my two sisters. We were down where the team was coming out, standing along the fence. I was maybe 5- or 6-years old. And I was just amazed at these guys in pads, how cool it was. My dad was yelling at somebody. 'Chuck, Chuck, come here.' It was Charlie McBride. He walks over and shakes my dad's hand. I thought that was pretty cool. Maybe 5 minutes later, he comes back and gives me a football, a real football. Everything I had before was Nerf. Me and my sister got our picture in the paper, holding the football. It's deflated now, somewhere in the garage."

What's your favorite television show?

"My roommates are always making fun of me. I'm big into real estate, and I watch a lot of design shows. My favorite show is probably 'Flip That House.' They get old, crappy, run-down houses and refurbish them. Someday that's my plan, to go into real estate."

If somebody gave you \$100,000 and you had to spend it, what would you buy?

"Gotta help out the family, so probably buy them a couple of new cars. Then I'd probably just have a big party, or a couple of parties."

When you cook for yourself, what's your specialty?

"My dad taught me how to grill out, steaks, and he's got a secret recipe for twice-baked potatoes, a whole lot of butter, a whole lot of sour cream and a little bit of potatoes, a lot of cheese, too."

Who is the toughest guy on the team?

"I have a lot of respect for Andy Kadavy and Brandon Rigoni, just because they're on a dead sprint and they're just launching themselves into that wall, busting up the wedge on special teams. I don't know if they're tough or crazy."

If you could only eat one thing for the next month, what would it be?

"I would go with Philly cheesesteak sandwiches from Pepper Jack's in Omaha. That's my favorite restaurant. You've got to get the green and red peppers, the jalapenos and the extra provolone . . . or is it Swiss?"

If you had a CD player and only three CDs, what three would you pick?

"I'd get Dane Cook, a comedian. It's not music, just comedy. Dane Cook cracks me up. I'd probably listen to 311, the original 311; they're from Omaha. And a toss-up between Jack Johnson or Cory Smith. Jack Johnson is from Hawaii. He's like a surfer kind of thing, just real mellow, hang out, like chill music."

Jessica Simpson or Brittany Spears?

"I'd have to go with Jessica. Maybe Brittany Spears in her prime it would have been tough but not nowadays. And Jessica Simpson is on the rebound, so it's more realistic I guess. I don't think either one is very realistic, but Jessica's on the rebound."

Bungee jumping, sky diving or rock climbing?

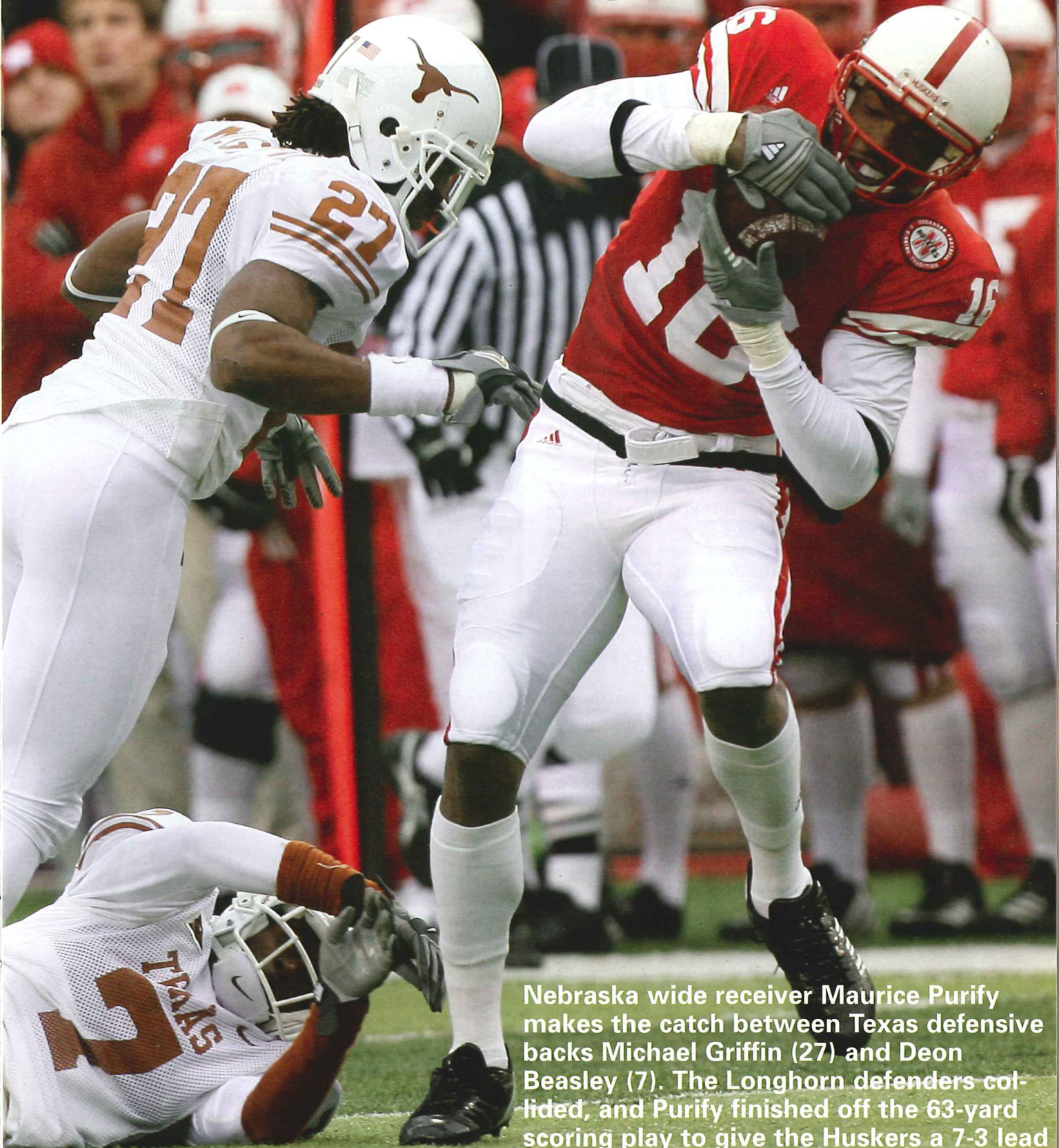
"Probably sky diving, just because it seems a lot easier. I figure I'd work with gravity instead of against it. If I'm going to fall off something, I might as well do it big."

What's the best movie you've ever seen?

"The one I watch the most would be 'Super Troopers,' just because there are a lot of one-liners, and I'm a big comedy guy. It cracks me up every time I watch it." ■

Texas 22

Nebraska 20



Nebraska wide receiver Maurice Purify makes the catch between Texas defensive backs Michael Griffin (27) and Deon Beasley (7). The Longhorn defenders collided, and Purify finished off the 63-yard scoring play to give the Huskers a 7-3 lead with 5:58 remaining in the first quarter. (Photo by Scott Bruhn)

Texas Bo

*'They were just
in the right place
at the right time'*

By Mike Babcock
Photos: Scott Bruhn

Better good than lucky. But luck never hurt, either, particularly as a complement to good. Texas is good; make no mistake about that. And the Longhorns might have been a little lucky.

At least, that's the word Nebraska defensive end Jay Moore used. "That just shows luck can be a part of the game sometimes," he said following the Cornhuskers' 22-20 loss against Texas.

He meant no disrespect. The defending national champion Longhorns deserve their No. 5 ranking. But they did, after all, fumble five times — and lose only one of the five. "It happened so many times where they were just in the right place at the right time," he said. "It's a sick feeling in your stomach."

Texas also recovered Nebraska's two fumbles, the second at the Cornhusker 45-yard line with 2:17 remaining. The Longhorns were trailing 20-19, with no timeouts, no way to stop the clock.

The fumble, by wide receiver Terrence Nunn, came on third-and-3 from the Nebraska 36-yard line. Nunn caught a pass from quarterback Zac Taylor and had the first down. But as he turned up field, Texas cornerback Aaron Ross knocked the ball loose and safety Marcus Griffin recovered.

"The kid (Ross) popped him right on the ball," said Taylor. "I had a fumble earlier in the game, so I did the same thing. I know what it feels like. It was just a really unfortunate situation."

Texas recovered his fumble at the Nebraska 37-yard line with 29 seconds remaining in the first half. The Longhorns weren't able to convert the mistake into points, however. Greg Johnson missed a 39-yard field goal attempt, with a stiff north wind at his back, and time ran out.

On the possession prior to the Cornhuskers' second fumble, "a lot of people were celebrating in the stands and on the sideline," Nebraska weakside linebacker Bo Ruud said. But "me and a couple of guys on defense, we didn't celebrate. We were standing there saying, 'Hey, guys, there



With snow falling, the football is jarred loose from Nebraska wide receiver Terrence Nunn. Texas safety Marcus Griffin (26) moves in to make the recovery with 2:17 remaining.

WORTH ANOTHER LOOK

will be one more series at some point, so don't . . . 'We've got to win this game on defense.'

"So we were expecting to play again. It wasn't like we took our helmets off and went and sat on the bench and laid back. We were ready to go out there. We knew we were going to have one more series, just by the amount of time

unce



there was left. It's just unfortunate that we had to fumble to give them that type of field position. We'd much rather give them the ball back via a punt."

Even so, he wasn't blaming Nunn. "You feel terrible for Terrence," said Ruud. "He's a good kid. He gets a first down for us, and the ball gets hit wrong and comes out."

The fifth Texas fumble came on the drive to the winning field goal. On third-and-2 pass play from the Nebraska 36-yard line, Cornhusker free safety Andrew Shanle forced it, by wide receiver Quan Cosby. But Texas guard Kasey Studdard recovered at the 22 to keep the drive alive. ■

REPORT CARD

RUSHING OFFENSE

Texas went into the game ranked No. 2 nationally against the run. And Nebraska did nothing to change that. The Cornhuskers managed to rush for a net of 34 yards, slightly more than Texas had allowed on average. "It's always frustrating when you can't get the running game going," said sophomore I-back Cody Glenn, "because the running game and the passing game go hand-in-hand." ★

PASSING OFFENSE

The protection was better in the second half and as a result, the Cornhuskers were more productive passing, despite the absence of a running threat. "We really didn't make any adjustments," quarterback Zac Taylor said of the protection plan. "We were prepared for everything they threw at us. In the first half we had a couple of series where we were just out of sync. It was nothing major. We just had a lack of communication on a couple of drives, and that's what hurt us." ★★★★★

RUSHING DEFENSE

Jamaal Charles gained 63 yards on only nine carries, but the Longhorns had to work hard for every yard on the ground, managing about two-thirds of their per-game average for rushing yards. On balance, "the defense played well," said defensive end Adam Carriker. That was especially true in the red zone. In five trips to the red zone, Texas scored four times. But three were field goals. And the touchdown came on a pass. ★★★★★

PASSING DEFENSE

Despite a good defensive plan, Colt McCoy completed 25-of-39 passes for 220 yards and two touchdowns. "Our coaches did a great job. We broke down their formations and they're not that complex of an offense," said free safety Andrew Shanle. "We felt very confident going in to be able to match all of their routes. It just didn't go our way." ★★★★★

SPECIAL TEAMS

"With the initial kickoff, our special-teams play could have been better," coach Bill Callahan said. "I felt that going into the game, we knew there were going to be windy conditions. We just didn't do a very good job with our placement and afforded them a big play." Quan Cosby returned the opening kickoff 78 yards to the Nebraska 9-yard line. But Texas had to settle for a field goal. ★★

NUMBERS

22

Texas opened the scoring with a 22-yard field goal, and it closed the scoring with a 22-yard field goal, unfortunate symmetry for Nebraska. Greg Johnson kicked the first, and Ryan Bailey, a walk-on from Austin, Texas, kicked the second, his first-ever field goal attempt at the collegiate level. Johnson also kicked a field goal with 6:33 remaining in the fourth quarter for a 19-14 lead, also from 22 yards. The Longhorns went into the game 1-of-2 on field goals for the season.

NEBRASKA-TEXAS NOTES

MASTER OF THE UNEXPECTED

Against USC, on fourth-and-2 from his own 36-yard line in the first quarter, Nebraska punter Dan Titchener passed to wide receiver Todd Peterson for 28 yards. And against Kansas State, the Cornhuskers' first touchdown came on a 17-yard pass from holder Jake Wesch to tight end Hunter Teafatiller on a fake field goal attempt. So no one should question Bill Callahan's propensity toward surprise.

Nebraska took a 20-19 lead with 4:54 remaining on a 25-yard pass from I-back Marlon Lucky to a wide-open wide receiver Nate Swift. "You saw a few of the toss sweeps that were executed earlier in the game, and the pursuit really came downhill," said Callahan. "That's kind of a complementary play to take advantage of an over-pursuing secondary that's been stepping up to force a run."

The Texas secondary "is outstanding," he said. "And they really bit on it and came up hard on the initial toss. The secondary support was all in place, and Nate Swift slipped the corner outside when he filled the lane and came wide open. It was a good red zone fringe pass."

Quarterback Zac Taylor said, with a smile, "Marlon had probably the best throw he's made in his entire life. It looked like he was about to throw it up in the stands."

Taylor added, "it was a great throw, and the right call at the right time."

Cory Ross was the last Cornhusker running back to throw a touchdown pass, an 18-yarder against Oklahoma last season.

NEVER SAY DIE

Even though the winning field goal was only a 22-yarder, Nebraska wasn't ready to concede it. "We knew we had a chance to block it," said Cornhusker cornerback Cortney Grixby. "That's what we wanted to do. We blocked it at (against) Pitt last year. We blocked it at (against) Kansas State. We had confidence we could get the job done on that play. So we weren't going in there like, 'Man, the game's over.'"

"We blocked one earlier, and we felt we could block this one."

Nebraska nose tackle Ola Dagunduro blocked the extra-point kick following the first Texas touchdown with 6:43 remaining in the first half, leaving the score at 9-7 Longhorns.

DÉJÀ VU

Terrence Nunn's fumble with 2:17 remaining was reminiscent of a lost fumble by nose tackle Le Kevin Smith late in last season's Texas Tech game. A pass by the Red Raiders' Cody Hodges was deflected; Smith caught it and started to run. Had he been able to drop to the ground, the Cornhuskers almost certainly would have won. Instead, the ball was stripped and Tech recovered, scoring on a touchdown pass with 12 seconds remaining for a 34-31 victory.

Both were "tough games we thought we were going to win," said Taylor. "It is similar. We had our chances. We just didn't take advantage of them."

Despite the similarities, the mood in the locker room after the Texas game might have been different, according to I-back Brandon Jackson, "because they were Texas, the defending (national) champs and we had them down to the wire. We all know we had the game won, and we let it go," he said.

Like his teammates, however, Jackson didn't blame Nunn for the loss.

"We're a team. He fumbles, we fumble. You've got to pick your teammate up," said Jackson. "That's my boy, so I told him to keep his head up and work hard."

BIG MO

Junior wide receiver Maurice Purify caught two passes for 84 yards, 61 of them coming on a touchdown play with 5:58 remaining in the first quarter. The transfer from San Francisco City College has caught 17 passes, 16 of which have been good for first downs. He has gained more than 20 yards on 10 of the receptions and is averaging 24.5 yards per reception. The touchdown was his third.

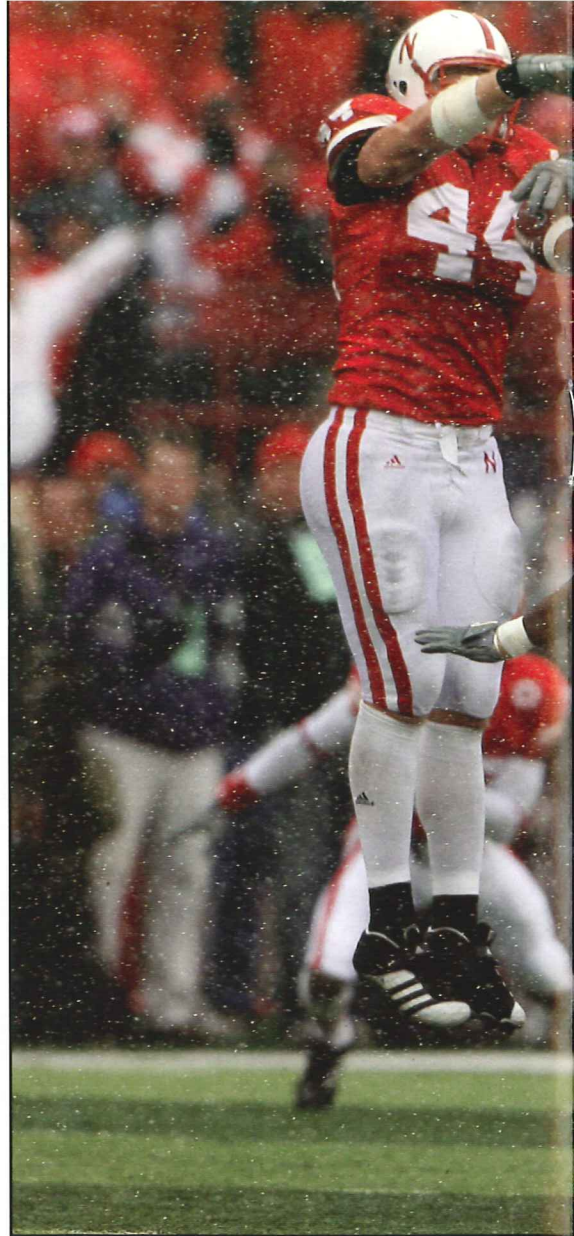
CLOSING IN

Zac Taylor's two touchdown passes give him 16 for the season and 35 during his two seasons at Nebraska. He is only eight touchdown passes shy of the school career record, held by Tommie Frazier (1992-95). Taylor's second-quarter interception was just the third of the season and the first since the second quarter of the Troy game, 84 consecutive attempts.

WINNING WITH CLASS

Texas coach Mack Brown commended the crowd of 85,187, a Memorial Stadium record. "This is the best place to play on the road in the country," he said. "These people are great. You've got people before the game shaking your hand, saying, 'Welcome, I'm glad you're here.' You've got people at halftime, (saying) 'Great first half, Coach.' Sometimes you're taken back by it."

"That doesn't happen a lot where we travel." ■



Nebraska used key plays defensively and offensively to m bats down a pass (above) by Longhorn quarterback Colt M from Zac Taylor, which was good for a 49-yard touchdown





count its comeback against Texas in the second half. Defensive end Jay Moore (44) /McCoy (12). NU I-back Brandon Jackson (32) breaks loose (below) on a shovel pass n on the first play of the fourth quarter.



Who STOOD OUT?

OFFENSE

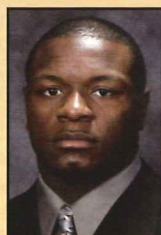
Junior Brandon Jackson again started at I-back and accounted for about half of the Cornhuskers' rushing net on one carry late in the third quarter. On second-and-10 from his own 40-yard line, he broke off an 18-yard run. Two plays later, on second-and-17 from the Texas 49, he took a shovel pass from quarterback Zac Taylor for a touchdown to cut the deficit to 16-14. Asked afterward to describe the play, Jackson said it didn't really mean anything "because we lost. That means more to me."



Brandon Jackson

DEFENSE

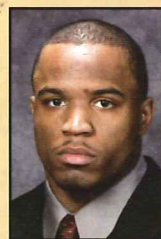
Junior weakside linebacker Steve Octavien returned to action after missing four games because of a hamstring problem. "He's anxious to get back in the mix," Callahan said after Wednesday's practice. He got back in the mix in a big way, with a game-high 10 tackles, including two for losses. He also forced a fumble and broke up a pass. Oh yes, he regained his Blackshirt during the week, too. The black practice jersey was pulled — put "on pause" was his description — early in the season for undisclosed reasons.



Steve Octavien

SPECIAL TEAMS

Junior strong safety Tierre Green caught the Longhorns' Quan Cosby at the Nebraska 9-yard line following the 78-yard kickoff return of the opening kickoff. The defense then held, forcing a Greg Johnson field goal, and giving the Huskers an emotional boost.



Tierre Green

INJURY REPORT

The availability of Cornhusker middle linebacker Corey McKeon was in doubt up to game time after he suffered an ankle injury against Kansas State. But McKeon started. "Corey was telling me all week he was going to play, so I was expecting it," weakside linebacker Bo Ruud said.

"For his injury, in the amount of time he had, he did a great job. He really sucked it up and showed some guts to go out there. That was a gutsy performance that really helped the team."

Offensive guard Greg Austin started and played through injury.

GAME STATS

SCORING

Oct. 21, 2006
Memorial Stadium
Lincoln, Neb.
Attendance 85,187

	1	2	3	4	F
Texas	3	13	0	6	22
Nebraska	7	0	0	13	20

First Quarter

	UT	NU
UT Johnson 22-yard Field Goal 13:02	3	0
Drive: 4 plays 4 yds 1:58		

NU Purify Pass from Taylor 63-yards (Congdon Kick) 05:58	3	7
Drive: 3 plays 66 yds 2:51		

Second Quarter

UT Cosby Pass from McCoy 6-yards (Johnson Kick Failed) 06:43	9	7
Drive: 6 plays 39 yds 2:15		

UT Sweed Pass from McCoy 55-yards (Johnson Kick) 04:00	16	7
Drive: 1 plays 55 yds 0:24		

Fourth Quarter

NU Jackson Pass from Taylor 49-yards (Congdon Kick) 14:48	16	14
Drive: 5 plays 80 yds 2:43		

UT Johnson 22-yard Field Goal 06:33	19	14
Drive: 15 plays 77 yds 8:06		

NU Swift Pass from Lucky 25-yards (Taylor Pass Fail) 04:54	19	20
Drive: 4 plays 65 yds 1:28		

UT Bailey 22-yard Field Goal 00:23	22	20
Drive: 8 plays 39 yds 1:54		

TEAM STATS

	UT	NU
Total First Downs	21	15
Rushing	7	3
Passing	12	10
Penalty	2	2
Rushing Attempts	34	24
Yards Gained Rushing	154	71
Yards Lost Rushing	26	33
Net Yards Rushing	128	38
Net Yards Passing	220	302
Passes Attempted	40	29
Passes Completed	25	16
Had Intercepted	0	1
Percent Completion	62.5%	55.2%
Yards per Attempt	5.5	10.4
Yards per Completion	8.8	18.9
Total Offensive Plays	74	53
Total Net Yds	348	340
Avg. Gain Per Play	4.7	6.4
Fumbles: No-Lost	5-1	2-2
Penalties: No-Yds	5-42	7-67
Punts: No-Yds	5-215	6-244
Avg. Per Punt	43.0	40.7
Avg. Net Punt	42.8	40.7
Punt Returns: No-Yds	0-0	1-1
Kickoff Returns: No-Yds	3-119	3-55
Interception Ret: No-Yds	1-6	0-0
Fumble Returns: No-Yds	0-0	0-0
Miscellaneous Yds	0	0
Possession Time	34:36	25:24
Third-Down Conversions	7-18	4-13
Percentage	38.9%	30.8%
Fourth-Down Conversions	0-0	0-0
Percentage	0.0%	0.0%
Sacks By: No-Yards	4-29	3-19



NU I-back Marlon Lucky (20) throws a touchdown pass to Nate Swift in the fourth quarter.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

TEXAS

	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Charles	9	64	1	63	7.0	0	27
Young	14	54	4	50	3.6	0	21
McCoy	11	31	21	10	0.9	0	11
Sweed	0	5	0	5	0.0	0	0
Total	34	154	26	128	3.8	0	27

	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
McCoy	39	25	64.1	0	220	2	55
TEAM	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Total	40	25	62.5	0	220	2	55

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Sweed	8	119	1	55
Finley	4	37	0	17
Cosby	3	28	1	14
Pittman	4	24	0	14
Young	2	4	0	3
Charles	1	3	0	3
Shipley	2	3	0	3
Ogbonnaya	1	2	0	2
Total	25	220	2	55

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Cosby	1	78	0	78
Young	2	41	0	28
Total	3	119	0	78

	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In	20
Johnson	4	44.0	53	0	0	0	1	2	
Gerland	1	39.0	39	0	0	1	0	0	
Total	5	43.0	53	0	0	1	1	2	

	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Johnson	2	4	22	0
Bailey	1	1	22	0
Total	3	5	22	0

	Solo	Asst	Tot	TFL	Sack	PD	FF	FR
Derry	4	4	8	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Griffin	3	3	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Lewis	4	1	5	3-10	1-8	0	1	1
Griffin	1	3	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
Ross	4	0	4	0-0	0-0	1	1	0
Killebrew	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Miller	0	3	3	0.5-5	0.5-5	0	0	0
Bobino	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Brown	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Gatewood	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Marshall	0	2	2	0.5-5	0.5-5	0	0	0
Okam	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Griffin	1	6	0	6
Total	1	6	0	6

NEBRASKA

	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Jackson	7	40	0	40	5.7	0	18
Hardy	1	13	0	13	13.0	0	13
Glenn	4	7	1	6	1.5	0	3
Lucky	3	5	0	5	1.7	0	2
Wilson	2	1	2	-1	-0.5	0	1
Taylor	7	5	30	-25	-3.6	0	3
Total	24	71	33	38	1.6	0	18

	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Taylor	28	15	53.6	1	277	2	63
Lucky	1	1	100.0	0	25	1	25
Total	29	16	55.2	1	302	3	63

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Nunn	5	84	0	23
Purify	2	84	1	63
Jackson	2	77	1	49
Swift	1	25	1	25
Phillips	2	12	0	7
Herian	2	9	0	6
Lucky	1	6	0	6
Peterson	1	5	0	5
Total	16	302	3	63

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Swift	1	1	0	1
Total	1	1	0	1

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Jackson	2	45	0	24
Lucky	1	10	0	10
Total	3	55	0	24

	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In	20
Titchener	6	40.7	50	0	0	5	1	4	
Total	6	40.7	50	0	0	5	1	4	

	Solo	Asst	Tot	TFL	Sack	PD	FF	FR
Octavien	7	3	10	2-3	0-0	1	1	0
Ruud	7	1	8	1.5-10	1-10	1	1	0
Brandenburgh	4	3	7	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Green	4	3	7	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Jones	5	2	7	0.5-1	0-0	1	0	0
Shanley	5	2	7	0-0	0-0	0	1	1
Bradley	5	1	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Carriker	2	3	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Moore	2	2	4	2.5-8	1-4	1	0	0
Cryer	1	1	2	1-5	1-5	0	1	0
Dagunduro	0	2	2	0.5-0	0-0	0	0	0
McKeon	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Peterson	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Grixby	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Hardy	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Steinkuhler	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Suh	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Turner	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

2006 SEASON STATS

RUSHING

	G	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Lucky, Marlon	8	79	495	14	481	6.1	6	51	60.1
Jackson, Brandon	8	72	417	15	402	5.6	3	48	50.2
Glenn, Cody	7	64	349	5	344	5.4	6	36	49.1
Wilson, Kenny	8	68	325	15	310	4.6	3	30	38.8
Hardy, Frantz	8	2	13	2	11	5.5	0	13	1.4
Nunn, Terrence	8	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Ganz, Joe	3	2	10	12	-2	-1.0	0	10	-0.7
Taylor, Zac	8	31	66	103	-37	-1.2	1	24	-4.6

PASSING

	G	Att	Comp	% Int	Yds	TD	Lg	YD/G	
Taylor, Zac	8	192	122	63.5	3	1824	16	78	228.0
Ganz, Joe	3	12	6	50.0	0	93	2	31	31.0
Titchener, Dan	8	1	1	100.0	0	28	0	28	3.5
Lucky, Marlon	8	1	1	100.0	0	25	1	25	3.1
Wesch, Jake	5	1	1	100.0	0	17	1	17	3.4

RECEIVING

	G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Nunn, Terrence	8	25	420	16.8	1	75	52.5
Purify, Maurice	8	17	417	24.5	3	63	52.1
Hardy, Frantz	8	9	221	24.6	3	78	27.6
Swift, Nate	8	12	208	17.3	1	49	26.0
Jackson, Brandon	8	12	152	12.7	1	49	19.0
Herian, Matt	8	12	150	12.5	2	36	18.8
Peterson, Todd	8	8	125	15.6	1	31	15.6
Lucky, Marlon	8	13	123	9.5	0	19	15.4
Phillips, J.B.	8	12	75	6.2	2	10	9.4
Teafatiller, Hunter	8	2	46	23.0	2	29	5.8
Mueller, Josh	8	4	21	5.2	2	8	2.6
Senske, Matt	3	2	13	6.5	1	12	4.3
Todd, Dane	8	2	9	4.5	1	8	1.1
Erickson, Dan	8	1	7	7.0	0	7	0.9

PUNT RETURNS LEADERS

	G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Nunn, Terrence	8	18	153	8.5	0	31	19.1
Swift, Nate	8	3	50	16.7	0	33	6.2

KICKOFF RETURNS LEADERS

	G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Jackson, Brandon	8	5	101	20.2	0	24	12.6
Green, Tierre	8	3	59	19.7	0	23	7.4
Wilson, Kenny	8	2	42	21.0	0	27	5.2

PUNTING

	G	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In	20
Titchener, Dan	8	38	39.4	53	0	2	19	4		16

FIELD GOALS

	G	Att	Made	Lg	Blkd
Congdon, Jordan	8	3	2	38	0

DEFENSE LEADERS

	G	Tack	Asst	Tot	TFL	Sack	PD	FF	FR
Bradley, Stewart	8	27	23	50	2-11	0-0	1	1	2
Ruud, Bo	8	22	22	44	3-18	1-10	2	2	0
Green, Tierre	8	23	20	43	0-1	0-0	1	0	1
Jones, Andre	8	28	12	40	0-1	0-0	5	0	0
McKeon, Corey	8	19	20	39	2-6	0-0	2	1	1
Shanle, Andrew	8	21	8	29	0-0	0-0	2	1	1
Carriker, Adam	8	10	17	27	5-14	1-7	2	0	0
Grixby, Cortney	8	20	5	25	0-0	0-0	6	1	1
Moore, Jay	8	12	12	24	7-46	4-33	2	0	0
Brandenburg, L.	8	12	11	23	2-7	0-1	0	0	0
Cryer, Barry	8	11	10	21	6-30	2-18	2	1	0
Octavien, Steve	4	12	7	19	2-3	0-0	1	1	0
Suh, Ndamukong	8	10	5	15	6-45	3-37	0	1	0

TEAM STATISTICS

	NU	OPP
Total First Downs	159	138
Rushing	74	44
Passing	79	85
Penalty	6	9
Total Net Yards	3479	2562
Total Plays	531	518
Yards Per Play	6.6	4.9
Yards Per Game	434.9	320.2
Rushing Attempts-Yards	324-1492	242-816
Yards Per Attempt	4.6	3.4
Yards Per Game	186.5	102.0
Pass Att.-Comp.-Int.	207-131-3	276-146-8
Passing Yards	1987	1746
Yards Per Completion	15.2	12.0
Yards Per Game	248.4	218.2
Punting: No.-Avg.	38-39.4	50-40.1
Fumbles-Lost	16-9	24-9
Penalties-Yards	42-373	49-344
Sacks By-Yds. Lost	15-123	15-109
Third-Down Conversions	49-107	36-114
Conversion Pct.	45.8	31.6
Fourth-Down Conversions	8-11	6-15
Conversion Pct.	72.7	40.0
Avg. Time Of Possession	32:10	27:50

Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
Nebraska	76	70	42	84	7	279
Opponents	10	47	19	40	0	116

2006 RESULTS, SCHEDULE

1 Sept. 2	Louisiana Tech (2-5), W 49-10	1-0
2 Sept. 9	Nicholls State (2-5), W 56-7	2-0
3 Sept. 16	@USC (6-0), L 28-10	2-1
4 Sept. 23	Troy (2-4), W 56-0	3-1
5 Sept. 30	Kansas (3-5), W 39-32 (OT)	4-1
6 Oct. 7	@Iowa State (3-5), W 28-14	5-1
7 Oct. 14	@Kansas State (4-4), W 21-3	6-1
8 Oct. 21	Texas (7-1), L 22-20	6-2
9 Oct. 28	@Oklahoma State (4-3), 2:30 p.m., ABC	
10 Nov. 4	Missouri (7-1), TBA (Homecoming)	
11 Nov. 11	@Texas A&M (7-1), TBA	
12 Nov. 24	Colorado (1-7), 2:30 p.m., ABC	
Dec. 2	Big 12 Championship at Kansas City, Mo., 7 p.m., ABC	

SCOUTING REPORT

GAME 9

At Oklahoma State Oct. 28

Location: Stillwater, Okla.

Enrollment: 31,800

2006 record: 4-3

Coch: Mike Gundy, second year

Series: Nebraska leads 36-3-1

2:30 p.m., ABC Regional

Pickens Stadium, Stillwater, Okla.

Quick Facts

Oklahoma State fell to Texas A&M, when the Aggies blocked an OSU extra point kick in overtime, the second PAT miss for the Cowboys.

Sophomore quarterback Bobby Reid, who entered the game as the Big

12 leader in pass efficiency, left the game early in the second quarter after sustaining what OSU officials said was a mild concussion. He did not return.

Former Nebraska assistant Nelson Barnes is in his second season as defensive line coach at OSU.

Cowboy to Watch

Junior wide receiver Adarius Bowman, a transfer from North Carolina, had two more touchdown catches against Texas A&M to give him 9 for the year. He has 36 catches for 791 yards. Bowman had 13 catches for 300 yards and 4 touchdowns in OSU's comeback victory over Kansas on Oct. 14.



BIG 12 AT A GLANCE

	North					South			
	W	L	T	L		W	L	T	L
Missouri	3	1	7	1	Texas	4	0	7	1
Nebraska	3	1	6	2	Texas A&M	3	1	7	1
Kansas St.	1	3	4	4	Baylor	3	1	4	4
Colorado	1	3	1	7	Oklahoma	2	1	5	2
Iowa State	0	4	3	5	Texas Tech	2	2	5	3
Kansas	0	4	3	5	Okla. St.	1	2	4	3

Saturday, Oct. 21

Texas 22, Nebraska 20
Missouri 41, Kansas State 21
Texas Tech 42, Iowa State 27
Baylor 36, Kansas 35
Oklahoma 24, Colorado 3
Texas A&M 34, Oklahoma State 33, ot

ON DECK

Missouri Nov. 4

Location: Columbia, Mo.

Enrollment: 27,088

2006 record: 7-1

Coch: Gary Pinkel, sixth year

Series: Nebraska leads 62-34-3

Time TBA
Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Neb.



TENTATIVE 2-DEEPS

NEBRASKA OFFENSE

WRX	87	Nate Swift*	6-2	195	So.
	7	Frantz Hardy*	6-1	180	Jr.
LT	54	Chris Patrick*	6-4	290	Jr.
	76	Lydon Murtha*	6-7	315	So.
LG	65	Greg Austin***	6-1	295	Sr.
	62	Andy Christensen	6-3	300	So.
C	59	Brett Byford	6-3	300	Jr.
	50	Kurt Mann**	6-4	290	Sr.
RG	61	Mike Huff*	6-4	305	So.
	67	Jacob Hickman	6-4	280	Fr.
RT	70	Matt Slauson*	6-5	335	So.
	77	Carl Nicks	6-5	325	Jr.
TE	11	Matt Herian***	6-5	245	Sr.
	81	Josh Mueller**	6-5	265	Jr.
WRZ	83	Terrence Nunn**	6-0	185	Jr.
	17	Todd Peterson*	6-4	210	So.
QB	13	Zac Taylor*	6-2	210	Sr.
	8	Joe Ganz	6-1	200	So.
FB	41	Dane Todd***	5-11	235	Sr.
	42	Matt Senske	6-3	235	Jr.
IB	32	Brandon Jackson**	5-11	210	Jr.
	20	Marlon Lucky*	6-0	210	So.
PK	29	Jordan Congdon*	5-11	175	So.

NEBRASKA DEFENSE

DE	44	Jay Moore*	6-4	280	Sr.
	99	Barry Turner*	6-3	250	So.
NT	54	Ola Dagunduro*	6-2	300	Sr.
	93	Ndamukong Suh	6-4	315	So.
DT	94	Barry Cryer*	6-2	280	Sr.
	43	Ty Steinkuhler*	6-3	280	So.
DE	90	Adam Carrier***	6-6	295	Sr.
	98	Zach Potter*	6-7	280	So.
SLB	34	Stewart Bradley***	6-4	245	Sr.
	88	Clayton Sievers*	6-4	240	So.
MLB	13	Corey McKeon*	6-1	225	Jr.
	40	Lance Brandenburg**	6-1	230	Jr.
WLB	51	Bo Ruud**	6-3	235	Jr.
	15	Steve Octavien	6-0	235	Jr.
SCB	25	Andre Jones	6-0	195	Jr.
	4	Rickey Thenarse	6-0	185	Fr.
SS	30	Tierre Green**	6-1	200	Jr.
	6	Major Culbert	6-0	200	Fr.
FS	8	Andrew Shanle***	6-1	210	Sr.
	9	Bryan Wilson	6-1	200	Jr.
WCB	2	Cortney Grixby**	5-9	170	Jr.
	23	Corey Young	6-0	195	Fr.
P	97	Dan Titchener	6-0	200	So.

OKLAHOMA STATE OFFENSE

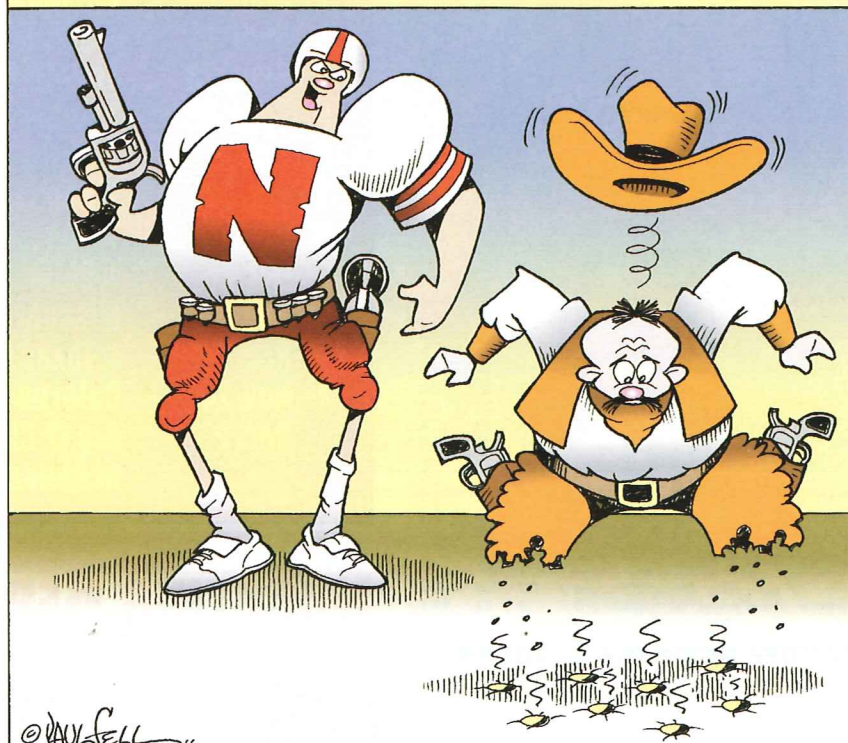
WR	84	D'Juan Woods***	6-1	210	Sr.
	10	Tommy Devereaux**	6-0	180	Jr.
LT	60	Brady Bond	6-6	285	RFr.
	68	Marshall Tetsworth*	6-6	290	Sr.
LG	61	David Koenig**	6-5	290	Jr.
	65	Steve Denning*	6-5	290	So.
C	63	David Washington*	6-3	310	So.
	54	Andrew Lewis	6-5	290	RFr.
RG	72	Kurt Seifried***	6-4	300	Sr.
	52	Andrew Lawrence	6-4	300	RFr.
RT	75	Corey Hilliard**	6-6	315	Sr.
	76	Russell Okung	6-5	270	Fr.
TE	87	Brandon Pettigrew*	6-5	265	So.
	88	Paschal Smith**	6-4	260	Jr.
WR	12	Adarius Bowman	6-4	220	Jr.
	6	Ricky Price*	6-1	190	So.
QB	14	Bobby Reid*	6-3	230	So.
	11	Zac Robinson	6-3	205	RFr.
FB	47	Jeremiah Burton*	6-1	235	So.
	33	John Johnson*	6-2	255	So.
RB	29	Mike Hamilton*	6-1	215	So.
	5	Keith Toston	6-1	195	Fr.
K	85	Jason Ricks*	6-2	200	So.

OKLAHOMA STATE DEFENSE

LE	50	Darnell Smith***	6-1	260	Sr.
	13	Nathan Peterson**	6-2	240	Jr.
DT	93	Ryan McBean**	6-5	290	Sr.
	96	Jeray Chatham*	6-3	285	So.
NG	92	Larry Brown**	6-3	295	Sr.
	90	Xavier L. Kennedy***	6-2	325	Sr.
RE	51	Victor DeGrate***	6-3	250	Sr.
	97	Marque Fountain**	6-1	260	Jr.
OLB	36	Alex Odiari*	6-0	235	So.
	19	Jeremy Nethon***	6-0	210	Jr.
MLB	2	Rodrick Johnson**	6-3	250	Jr.
	35	Marcus Brown	6-2	240	So.
OLB	4	Patrick Lavine	6-2	210	Fr.
	48	Zach Carter	6-1	225	Jr.
CB	7	Martel Van Zant**	6-1	210	Jr.
	26	Quinton Moore*	5-11	185	So.
SS	20	Andre Sexton	6-1	205	RFr.
	30	Grant Jones***	5-10	200	Sr.
FS	8	Donovan Woods**	6-2	215	Jr.
	27	Calvin Mickens*	6-2	200	So.
CB	17	Jacob Lacey*	5-10	175	So.
	16	Perrish Cox	6-1	180	Fr.
P	18	Matt Fodge*	6-1	195	So.

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Oct. 28



Brian Hill
Editor



Mike Babcock
Cont. Editor



Terry Douglass
G.I. Independent



Sean Callahan
Rivals.com



Jon Schuetz
KETV
(Guest)

Nebraska @Oklahoma St.	Nebraska 30, Okla. St. 23	Nebraska 28, Okla. St. 24	Nebraska 34, Okla. St. 21	Nebraska 24, Okla. St. 13	Nebraska 35, Okla. St. 14
Oklahoma @Missouri	Missouri 20, Oklahoma 17	Missouri 21, Oklahoma 17	Oklahoma 31, Missouri 13	Oklahoma 31, Missouri 21	Oklahoma 17, Missouri 14
Iowa State @Kansas St.	Kansas St. 24, Iowa State 22	Iowa St. 24, Kansas St. 21	Kansas St. 14, Iowa St. 13	Iowa St. 24, Kansas St. 14	Kansas St. 20, Iowa St. 10
Georgia @Florida	Florida 31, Georgia 24	Florida 35, Georgia 28	Florida 30, Georgia 10	Florida 38, Georgia 24	Florida 35, Georgia 20
Last Week	3-1	3-1	3-1	3-1	2-2
Season	21-11	28-4	28-4	28-4	26-6

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Adding Depth at Cornerback

With 2 prospects committed, NU looks to bolster corner position

By Rick Shaw

One of the keys to Nebraska's fate on the field in 2006 involved the health of its two starting cornerbacks. Though the Huskers were set to return both starters at the position (Cortney Grixby and Zackary Bowman), there was little experience or proven depth behind them.

Early in fall practice drills, Bowman went down with a knee injury and was lost for the season. As a result, junior college newcomer



Shawn Sullivan



Anthony Blue

Andre Jones was thrust into the starting lineup a bit earlier than anticipated. However, seven weeks into the season, Husker coaches were still searching for a dependable third corner that they could utilize in "nickel" and "dime" coverage packages.

On the recruiting trail, Husker coaches are doing everything in their power to ensure that they don't encounter a similar scenario in future seasons. With two prospects at the position already committed, and several more giving careful consideration

to Nebraska, the Huskers are in good shape to shore up their cornerback depth for 2007 and beyond.

Two Texans slated for cornerback, delivered their pledges to Nebraska coaches this past summer. Shawn Sullivan (5-foot-11, 182-pounds) of Brenham and Anthony Blue (5-10, 172) of Cedar Hill are two speedy athletes who could see early playing time in Lincoln.

Sullivan, rated a three-star prospect by Rivals.com, earned all-conference honors as a junior after tallying 43 tackles and four interceptions. Possessing excellent speed (4.4-second 40-yard dash), Sullivan chose the Huskers over offers from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma State, Wisconsin and others.

Blue, another three-star prospect, brings speed (4.5) as well as a physical nastiness to the defensive back position. He chose Nebraska over Baylor, Purdue, Wisconsin, Houston and others.

NEBRASKA COMMITMENTS FOR 2007

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	40	Hometown (School)
Anthony Blue	DB	5-10	172	4.57	Cedar Hill, Texas
Quentin Castille	RB	6-1	234	4.6	La Porte, Texas
Jared Crick	DE	6-6	245	4.8	Cozad, Neb.
Demetrious Davis	DT	6-2	286	5.22	St. Joseph, Mo. (Benton)
Jared Glover	DE	6-5	220	4.75	Bixby, Okla.
Ian Harris	TE	6-3	217	4.76	San Antonio, Texas (Churchill)
Roy Helu	RB	5-11	206	4.62	Danville, Calif. (San Ramon Valley)
Ryan Hill	TE	6-3	230	4.7	Arvada, Colo. (West)
Blake Lawrence	LB	6-2	199	4.65	Overland Park, Kan. (Shawnee Mission West)
Niles Paul	WR	6-2	210	4.4	Omaha, Neb. (North)
Shawn Sullivan	DB	5-11	182	4.4	Brenham, Texas
DeAndre West	DB	6-1	195	4.4	Oakland, Calif. (Wilson Prep)
Patrick Witt	QB	6-4	215	4.95	Wylie, Texas

For more daily recruiting information, visit HuskersIllustrated.com, a member of the Rivals.com network.



David Ross



Akeem Auguste

With two commitments from cornerback prospects already in hand, the Huskers hope to add another one or two pledges at that position before February signing day.

One of the higher-rated prospects giving Nebraska a look is David Ross (6-0, 174) of Compton (Dominguez), Calif. Rated a four-star prospect by Rivals.com and the No. 25 prospect in the state, Ross has already accumulated 22 scholarship offers. He hopes to take one of his official visits to Lincoln.

"My top five is Oregon, Cal, Nebraska, Michigan and USC," Ross said. "All of those schools are pretty even."

"I think I'd be able to play at Nebraska as a true freshman. Their program is pretty nice, and they should be good over the next couple of years."

Ross, who said he's looking to leave the Los Angeles area for college, earned all-league honors as a junior after pulling in three interceptions and breaking up several other passes. Rival.Com rates Ross as the No. 14 cornerback prospect in the country.

Another highly rated cornerback prospect, from the opposite corner of the country, also hopes to visit the Nebraska campus sometime soon. Akeem Auguste (5-11, 175) of Hollywood (Chaminade-Madonna), Fla., said assistant coach (John) Blake has done a good job of selling the NU program.

"Coach Blake . . . he's cool," Auguste said. "He's a good coach."

"I'm looking for a place with a good family atmosphere that feels like home to me. I also want to play very early. I'll make my decision when I know I'm ready."

Rated the No. 22 prospect in the state by Rivals.com (four stars), Auguste also holds scholarship offers from Florida, Florida State, South Carolina, Pittsburgh, Virginia and others. He earned second-team all-state honors as a junior after totaling 60 tackles and seven interceptions. He's

RECRUITING NOTES

Omaha Junior Gets NU Offer

By Sean Stevens

A big surprise in Nebraska high school football for the 2006 season has been the play of Omaha Westside. The Warriors are undefeated and ranked No. 3 in the state in Class A.

A major reason for Westside's success has been the play of running back Collins Okafor. At 6-foot-1 and 205 pounds, with 4.56-second speed in the 40-yard dash, Okafor has rebounded from an injury-plagued sophomore season to lead Class A in rushing. He had racked up more than 1,150 yards through eight games — an average of 144.5 yards per game — and was averaging nearly 8 yards per carry.



Collins Okafor

Nebraska's coaches have taken notice, and offered him a scholarship for the 2008 season. He becomes the fourth in-state player to receive a Husker offer, joining NU oral commitment Baker Steinkuhler of Lincoln Southwest, Omaha Central running back Ronnell Grixby and Elkhorn lineman Trevor Robinson.

Okafor credits his stellar junior season in part to a change in running style.

"I used to be an outside runner," he said, "but they are trying to make me more of an insider. I'm a little shifty."

As for the Husker offer, he was happy to receive it.

"I'm ecstatic," he said. "I don't know what to say. I'm speechless."

● One of Nebraska's 2007 commitments is looking around at other schools. San Antonio, Texas, tight end Ian Harris gave the Husker coaches his pledge in mid-June but recently visited Missouri for its game with Colorado.

"The Mizzou trip was a good trip — I liked it a lot," Harris said. "I spent time with Coach (Gary) Pinkel while I was there, and he explained how they use the tight ends in their offense, which, you have to admit, is impressive."

He remains committed to Nebraska; however that commitment is rather soft. "Right now, I'm still committed to Nebraska," he said. "I'm just taking things as they come — making sure I make the right decision in the end more or less."

● The Texas game was to be a big visit weekend for the Husker staff. Two of the brightest stars expected were offensive guard Jaivorio Burkes of Phoenix, Ariz., and safety Jordan Bernstine of Des Moines, Iowa.

Burkes, who holds more than 40 scholarship offers, is wide open with his recruitment. He visited Lincoln unofficially this past summer and came away impressed.

"At Nebraska, their new facility is just ridiculous. It was crazy, and I'm sure it's the best out there," he said. "My favorite part of everything was their 'Heisman room'. As you walk in the entrance to the facility, you have a room they show video of their three Heisman winners. Plus, you had a bunch of their fans coming in to to check everything out. It was really cool."

Bernstine, Rivals.com's No. 63 overall prospect nationally, has had Iowa in the lead for awhile. It will take a strong visit for the Huskers to sway him. He did say recently that the visits would play a large role in his decision.

"I'll probably be taking most my official visits, if not all of them, before making my decision sometime after my season," he said. ■

also an accomplished return man, bringing back two punts and two kickoffs for touchdowns in 2005.

Auguste's teammate, safety Eain Smith, visited Lincoln in September.

Antwoine Baker (6-0, 170) out of Los Angeles (Jordan) was scheduled to be in the stands to watch Nebraska's game against Texas. The blue-chip cornerback and former teammate of current Husker Ricky Thenarse, said NU is in his current top four.

"I know Ricky is pretty excited about going there," Baker said. "I just have to check it out for myself and see how much I like it."

"I saw Nebraska play USC on TV. Nebraska has a really good team. They need some corners, though."

Baker, rated the No. 50 prospect (three stars) in the state by Rivals.com, also lists Washington, Mississippi State and Arizona State on his short list. He admits that the Huskies and Bulldogs may hold the slight lead.

Baker, with 4.5 speed in the 40, earned first-team all-city and first-team all-league honors as a junior, after recording 40 tackles, three sacks and four interceptions.

One of the top junior college



Antoine Baker



Armando Murillo

prospects in the country, cornerback Armando Murillo, currently has Nebraska in the lead for his services. The 6-0, 195-pound athlete out of Eastern Arizona Community College in Thatcher, Ariz., was in Lincoln to watch the overtime win against Kansas in late September.

"On a scale of 1-10, the Nebraska visit was a '20,'" Murillo said. "It went so good. It went much better than I thought it would."

"It was a great trip and a fun time, and I thought a little about committing while I was there. I decided that, before I make my decision, I want to take a few more visits."

Rated the No. 23 junior college prospect (four stars) by Rivals.com, Murillo was named a first-team Junior

College All-America selection in 2005. He finished his freshman year at Eastern Arizona with seven interceptions. He's currently holding scholarship offers from Arizona State, Michigan State, Ole Miss, Oregon State and Marshall, in addition to Nebraska.

Marquis Hundley, another talented junior college corner, is scheduled to visit Lincoln on Dec. 8. The 5-11, 180-pound speedster (4.3-second 40-yard dash) from Santa Rosa (Calif.) Junior College said he's looking hard at bringing his game to Nebraska.

"Oh, I like Nebraska," Hundley said. "They are cool, and the program is good. They are starting to get a lot of good recruits now. They are starting to run a good program."

"Nebraska offered me first. My mind has been on Nebraska the whole time."

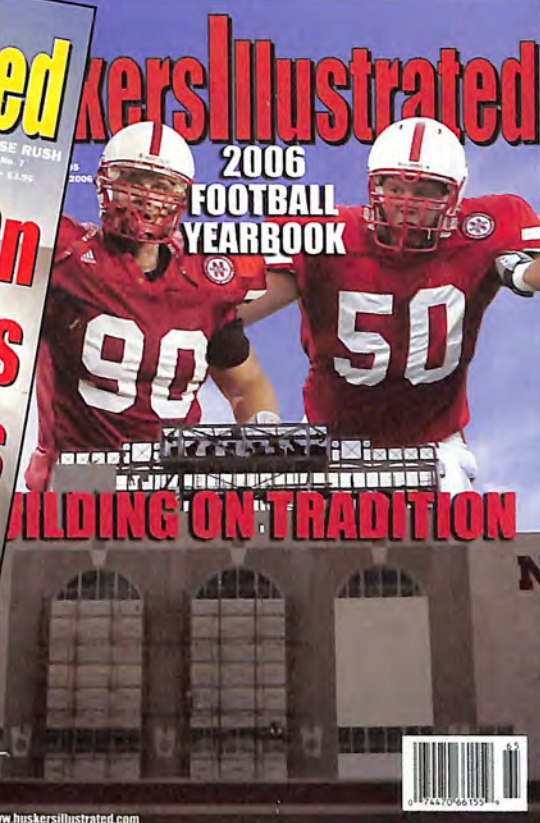
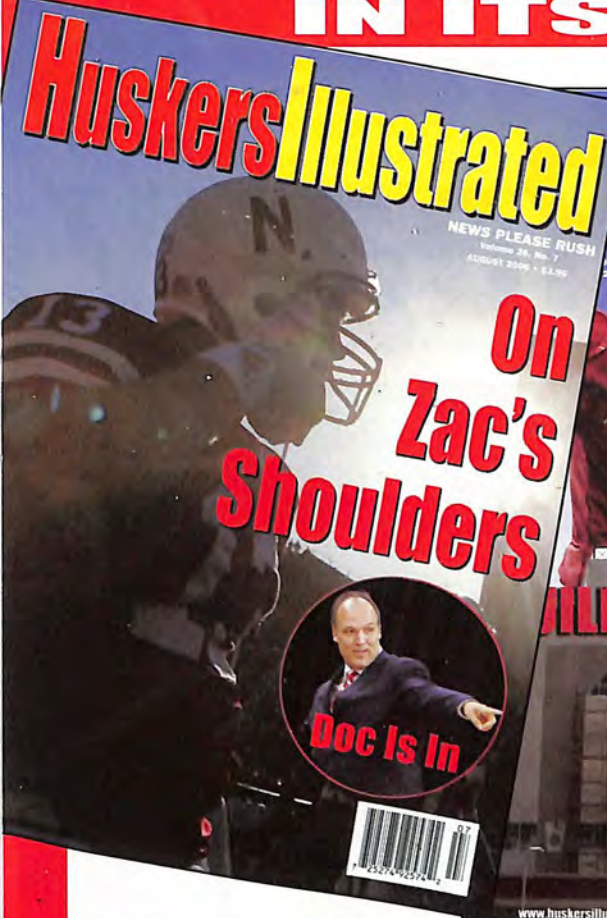
Hundley, rated the No. 42 junior college prospect (three stars) by Rivals.com, is also entertaining scholarship offers from Idaho and Kentucky. Hundley picked off three passes as a freshman at Santa Rosa in 2005. ■

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... All The Time

It Isn't All Ab

Co-captain Stalls has shown knack for stepping up when needed

By Todd Henrichs

Call it the Colorado connection. Nebraska teammates Tracy Stalls and Rachel Holloway may be four years apart in age, but on the volleyball court together for the first time this season, they've clicked in such a way that you'd think they'd played together for years.

Their connection can be traced to Jim Miret, who coached both Stalls and Holloway as director of the Front Range Volleyball Club in Denver. Although they were never teammates until this year, Stalls said she always heard about Holloway's potential as a setter.

And after getting the chance to play next to Holloway for the first time, Stalls is beginning to understand why.

"It's kind of fun because I see her do things that I can remember coach Miret teaching," Stalls said earlier this season. "When she does those crazy deceptive moves when she sets, I'm like, 'Ooh! That's got Miret's prints all over it.'"

"And just the speed. Hitting it fast. That's something that she's really familiar with, and that's what I like to hit."

It's difficult to say just how big of a role Holloway has played in what has been a breakthrough season for Stalls in 2006.

Midway through the year, the junior middle blocker from Denver was averaging 2.7 kills a game, the same mark that All-American Melissa Elmer was at last season. Stalls, meanwhile,



Midway through the season, Nebraska junior Tracy Stalls led the Big 12 and ranked among the top 10 nationally in hitting percentage.

averaged just 1.4 kills a game on .244 hitting in her sophomore year.

And Stalls has been far more efficient. At .444, she led the Big 12 and

ranked among the top 10 nationally in hitting percentage. If she can continue that pace, she'll challenge Virginia Stahr's single-season NU record of

out the Stats

.438 set back in 1989.

But it hasn't been all about statistics for Stalls, one of Nebraska's co-captains this season.

Stalls, too, has shown a knack for stepping up when needed. When upstart Creighton threatened to take a two-games-to-none lead over Nebraska with a record crowd buzzing at Qwest Center Omaha, it was Stalls who almost single-handed-

ly took over the match.

Stalls finished with 11 kills — hitting .450 — and had a hand in eight of the Huskers' 10 blocks against the Bluejays.

Stalls led 17-0 Nebraska in blocking, averaging 1.43 blocks a game.

"Tracy understands competition and how to embrace it," Nebraska head coach John Cook said. "I think she does that better than anybody on our team.

"The closer the games, the bigger the matches, the more she enjoys it. She thrives on that. She has a great perspective on competition."

Stalls' contributions offensively are seen as key for title hopeful Nebraska, which figures to benefit from being less reliant on outside hitters Sarah Pavan and Jordan Larson for kills. At 5.2, Pavan still ranked among the mid-season national leaders in kills per game.

Pavan and Stalls came to Nebraska as classmates in 2004, and while they share the goal of leading NU to another national championship, they've followed very different paths to reach this point in their career.

While Pavan was the youngest player to ever play for the Canadian National Team, Stalls could be the oldest to ever play for the Huskers by the time her career ends next year.

Before ever arriving at Nebraska, Stalls spent nearly two years training within a developmental program for USA Volleyball. The daughter of Dave Stalls, an eight-year veteran of the NFL, even spent two and a half months training with a university team in Japan.

The experiences were certainly beneficial, but Stalls would prefer you not delve too far into history. After all, it's something she hears about all the time from fellow middle blocker Kori Cooper, a freshman who won't turn 19 until next April.

Stalls, who although being in just her third season at Nebraska, is the

Huskers' matriarch at age 22.

"I'll talk about some show, like the 'Thundercats,' and she'll be like, 'What?' Stalls said. "Then I'm like, 'Sorry, buddy, it was before your time.'"

All the talk has led Stalls to joke that she walks with a cane and that her knees talk to her in bed every night. And while they may poke fun at Stalls because of her age, younger teammates like Cooper and sophomore middle blocker Amanda Gates are eager to learn from her on and off the court.

"That's cool," Stalls said. "It makes me feel good that I can help them in some way." ■

Todd Henrichs covers the Nebraska volleyball team for the Lincoln Journal Star. He can be reached at 473-7439 or thenrichs@journalstar.com

RESULTS, SCHEDULE

Aug. 29 San Diego W 3-0

Labor Day Tournament At Lincoln, Neb.

Sept. 1 St. Mary's W 3-0
Sept. 2 Middle Tennessee St. W 3-0
Sept. 3 Long Beach State W 3-0

Players Challenge At Lincoln, Neb.

Sept. 8 Louisville W 3-0
Sept. 9 Cal Poly W 3-0
Sept. 10 Minnesota W 3-1

Sept. 13 Kansas W 3-0
Sept. 16 @Oklahoma W 3-0
Sept. 20 Iowa State W 3-0
Sept. 23 Texas Tech W 3-0
Sept. 24 @Creighton W 3-1
Sept. 30 @Baylor W 3-1
Oct. 4 Kansas State W 3-0
Oct. 7 @Texas A&M W 3-0
Oct. 11 @Missouri W 3-0
Oct. 14 Colorado W 3-0
Oct. 18 @Texas W 3-2

Oct. 25 Missouri 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 28 @Kansas State 7 p.m.
Nov. 1 @Texas Tech 7 p.m.
Nov. 4 Oklahoma TBA
Nov. 8 @Iowa State 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 11 @Colorado 8 p.m.
Nov. 15 Texas A&M 7 p.m.
Nov. 18 Baylor 7 p.m.
Nov. 22 @Kansas 7 p.m.
Nov. 25 Texas 7 p.m.

Nov. 30-Dec. 3 NCAA First/Second Rounds At Campus Sites

Dec. 8-9 NCAA Regionals At Campus Sites

Dec 14-16 NCAA Final Four At Qwest Center (Omaha, Neb.)

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Her Name Says It



Desiree Sniatynski has earned second-team All-America honors on bars for two straight years at the NCAA Championships.

Nebraska's Desiree 'not satisfied with just making it'

BY KATELYN KERKHOVE

Maybe it's in her name, but Desiree Sniatynski is rarely satisfied. The junior gymnast from Kenosha, Wis., started hitting the gym when she was 3-years old. And since then, she has never

looked back.

While she may have reached her ultimate goal of competing at the college level, she isn't one to stop short — that's where her first name is so appropriate.

"She critiques herself very, very tough," Nebraska coach Dan Kendig said. "It's a product of, 'I made it, but my legs were bent' or this-and-that thinking. But that's who she is."

"It's her first name. Desiree. She's not satisfied with just making it. To her, there's just always room for improvement. But I think she's earned that right to be tough on herself."

Entering level-10 gymnastics at age 10, Sniatynski competed eight years at that level, never opting to turn Elite and go through the Olympic training process.

For the 5-foot-5 Husker, not placing at enough level-10 meets and not being willing to give up the hours and the academic possibilities pushed her to the college gymnastics scene.

"I always remember watching college (gymnastics) when I was little and thought it was fun," Sniatynski said. "I watched Olympics, too, but I never thought I would be that good. Usually when you do college (gymnastics), you don't do Olympics because people's bodies get burnt out and worn out. So after this, I'm done."

But she still has a long way to go in the next two years, Sniatynski said.

Starting out the 2006 season as an all-around competitor, Sniatynski failed to put up high enough numbers with her vault and was pulled from the event four meets into the season.

While she said it was a setback to her personal goals, she knew it was better for the team and said it gave her a chance to focus on her other events — bar, beam and floor exercise.

However, before exiting the all-around, Sniatynski set a career-high 39.20 against Michigan at the Bob Devaney Sports Center on Jan. 13.

"I kind of started to struggle with vault, so they put someone else in who could fill in better," Sniatynski said.

"You'd think beam would be scarier, but vault is. Doing it in the arena versus in the practice gym makes it a little harder to adjust, too."

Overall, Sniatynski's best meet came in the Huskers' 196.25-196.125 loss against Iowa State on March 5. Notching a 9.875 on bars, a 9.80 on beam and a 9.825 on floor, Sniatynski looked set to make a huge impact on the national stage in April.

A small setback in the form of an ankle sprain, however, benched her from floor and beam a few weeks before NCAA competition. But she regained her health by opening day, in time to compete in all three of her events during the NCAA Championships at Corvallis, Ore.

There, she earned her second All-America honor, scoring a 9.825 on bars to place eighth.

With all of her success, Kendig praised Sniatynski for her hard work, calling her "the poster child of the Nebraska program."

"She's her own worst enemy," Kendig said. "She lets that 5 inches between her ears get the best of her sometimes. But she's one of the ones that epitomizes what we've tried to develop — we bring an athlete and get them stronger, and they learn new

things every year."

Since her days in club gymnastics, Sniatynski said she has matured in the way she tackles difficult situations. She said she can handle the mental side of her gymnastics a little better than she used to, but that she still gets down on herself when things get tough.

This year, however, she intends to keep improving in her mental game and on the technical side of things as well.

Kendig said she is almost guaranteed improvement as she is one of Nebraska's hardest workers.

"Really, she has earned the right for people to know who she is and for people to know what she means to our program," Kendig said. "For people who have watched her throughout her career, they will see that she has developed and gotten better."

"Her best gymnastics are still in front of her, and that's exciting as a coach."

YOUTH MOVEMENT

Coach Dan Kendig will have a young team in 2006-07, with seven of 12 Huskers either sophomores or freshmen. The only seniors are Michele Zabawa and Stephanie Carter.

The roster: Carter, Sr. (Bryn Athyn,

Pa.); Kylee Johnson, So. (Lincoln, Neb.); Sabrina Long, So. (Tulsa, Okla.); Vanessa Meloche, So. (Montreal, Quebec, Canada); Molly Ohnoutka, Fr. (Omaha, Neb.); Emily Parsons, Jr. (St. Charles, Mo.); Maria Scaffidi, Fr. (Harland, Wis.); Desire' Sniatynski, Jr. (Kenosha, Wis.); Kylie Stone, So. (Calgary, Alberta, Canada); Brittney Williams, Jr. (Hathboro, Pa.); Tricia Woo, So. (Milpitas, Calif.); Zabawa, Sr. (Omaha, Neb.).


Seven All-Americans return, including Parsons, a seven-time All-America honoree. The Huskers also have four Big 12 event champions and six all-conference performers. The Huskers are coming off a fifth-place finish at the NCAA Championships.

BRIEFLY

● The Huskers performed a short demonstration that included basic skills, strength and flexibility for volunteers and participants in the Alzheimer's Memory Walk in Lincoln in mid-September.

● Tim Garrison, head coach at the Southern California Elite Gymnastics Academy for 10 years and an assistant at Cal State-Fullerton for two years, joined Kendig's staff in late September. Garrison, who coaches vault, floor and conditioning, replaced Adrian Burde, who left for Florida in August.

● The 2007 season begins at the Super Six Challenge in Fayetteville, Ark., on Jan. 5. ■



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BASKETBALL



New Nebraska men's basketball coach Doc Sadler discusses a drill with players (above) during the first practice of the season Oct. 13 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. NU players (from left) Sek Henry, Jay-R Strowbridge and Ryan Anderson go after a loose ball (below) during the practice. The Huskers open with an exhibition against Nebraska-Kearney on Nov. 6. (PHOTOS BY SCOTT BRUHN)



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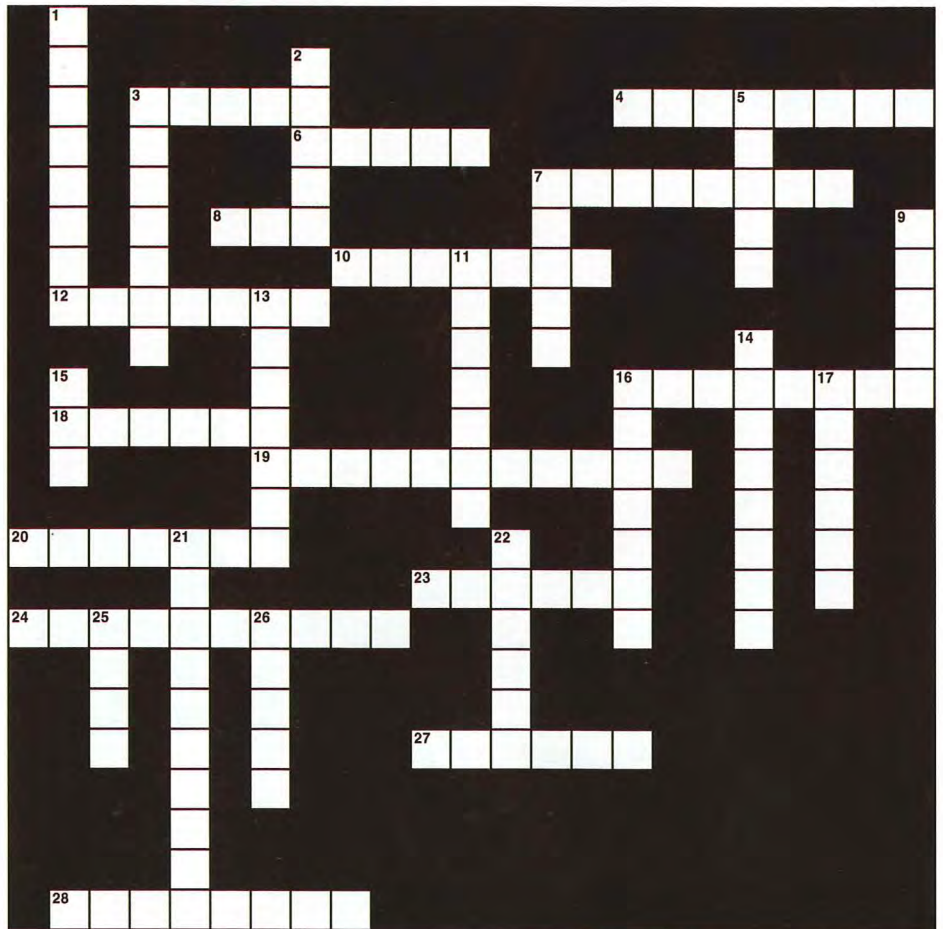
ACROSS

- 3 Defensive line coach
- 4 Nov. 4 opponent
- 6 Starting X wide receiver
- 7 Linebackers coach
- 8 Defensive lineman from Oregon
- 10 Oklahoma State nickname
- 12 Wears No. 88
- 16 Chris Patrick's home state
- 18 Former NU assistant on Oklahoma State staff
- 19 Caught first TD pass vs. Kansas State
- 20 Leading rusher vs. K-State
- 23 Oklahoma State color
- 24 Andy Christensen's hometown
- 27 Leading receiver vs. Kansas State
- 28 Defensive captain

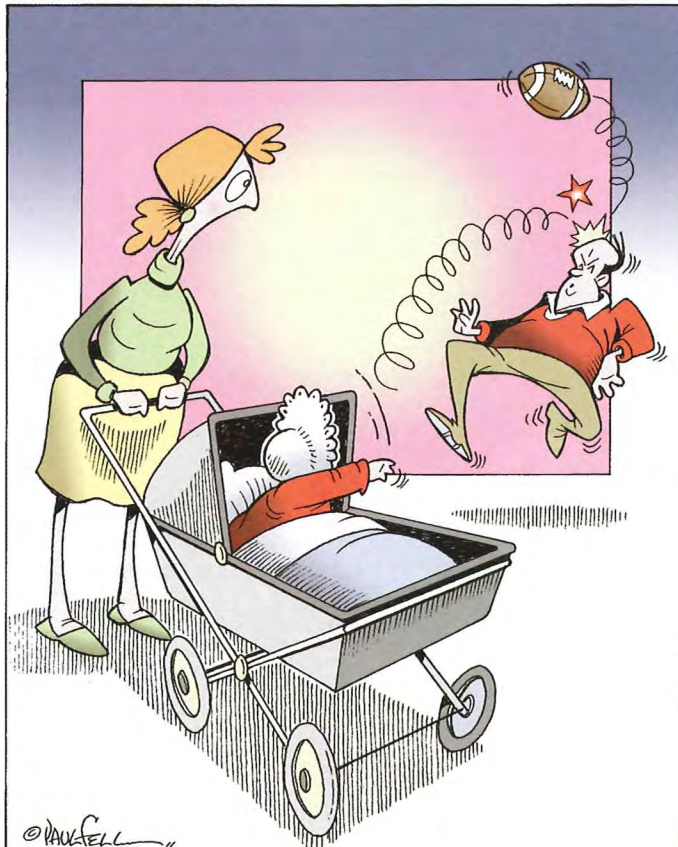
DOWN

- 1 Wears No. 85
- 2 Threw first TD pass vs. Kansas State
- 3 Leading tackler vs. Kansas State
- 5 Andrew Shanle's older brother
- 7 Defensive lineman from Louisiana
- 9 Usual short yardage I-back
- 11 Bo Ruud's older brother
- 13 Mike Huff's hometown
- 14 True freshman who intercepted pass vs. Kansas State
- 15 Network for NU-Oklahoma State game
- 16 Wears No. 81
- 17 Returning starter at cornerback
- 21 Oklahoma State campus location
- 22 Offensive captain
- 25 Starting Z wide receiver
- 26 Oklahoma State head coach

Answers in Nov. 4 issue



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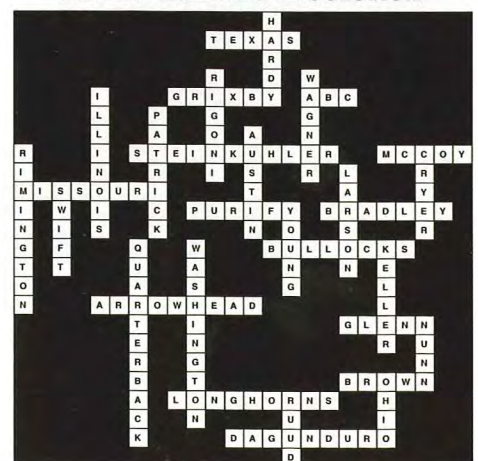
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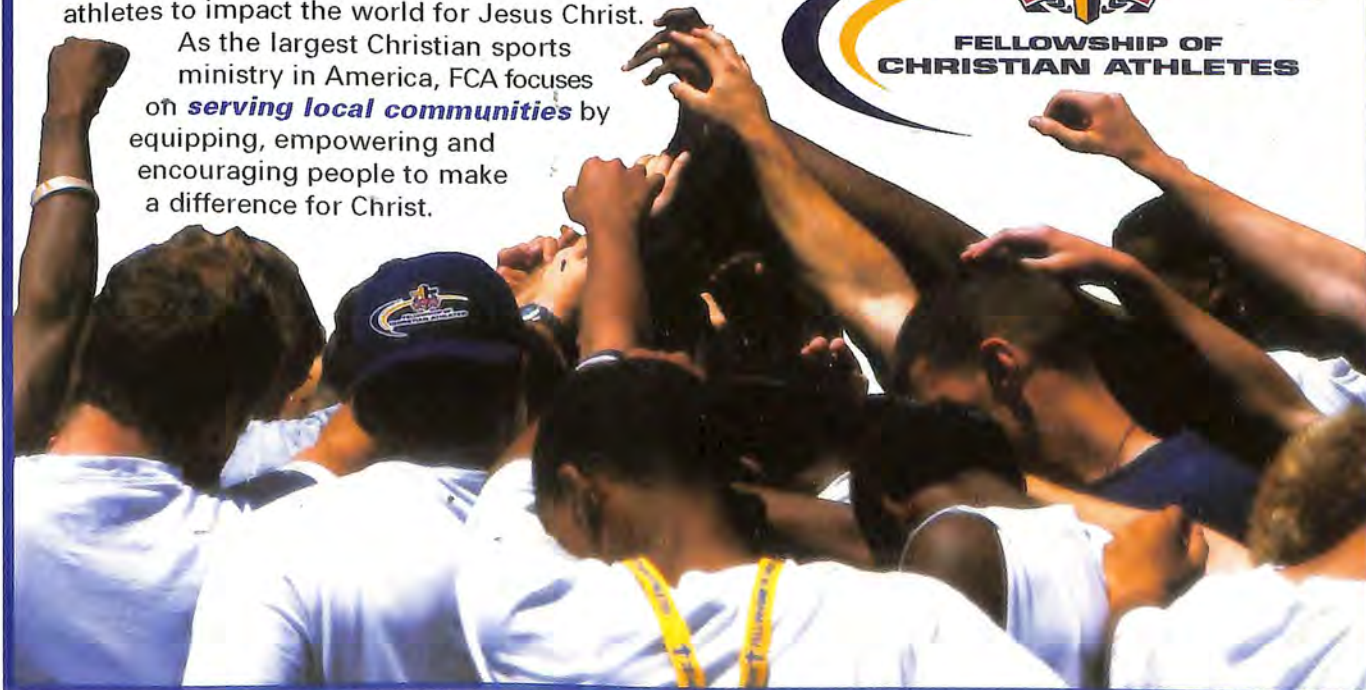
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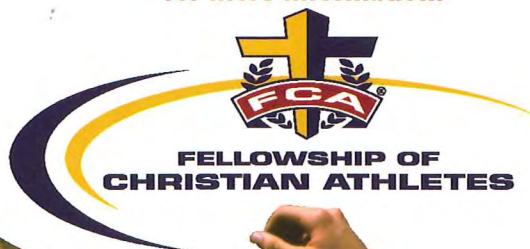
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Closing The Gap

Nebraska takes a big step toward regaining the national respect to which it has become accustomed



**Mike
BABCOCK**

THE ATMOSPHERE was surreal, snow falling, as if to become a blizzard. Time running out. Nebraska leading 20-19. Order about to be restored. Back on the national stage.

When Texas walk-on Ryan Bailey attempted the first field goal kick of his collegiate career, however, the snow had stopped, leaving only a sharp north wind and a gray sky.

The surreal was giving way to the reality of what it means to be a defending national champion, of finding a way to win when winning seems as unlikely as a Marlon Lucky touchdown pass.

As Bailey's timeout-delayed kick sailed through the up-rights at the north end of Memorial Stadium, a plastic bottle filled with Pepsi came sailing out of the stands and onto the damp FieldTurf.

A crowd of 85,000 is bound to include a knucklehead or two.

Only 23 seconds remained then, and after Nebraska took possession at its own 24-yard line following a kickoff scooped up by Dane Todd, who pitched to Terre Green, who threw a lateral pass to Marlon Lucky, 11 of those seconds had elapsed, and the Cornhuskers had to use their final timeout.

Last season, the clock wouldn't have started until the ball was snapped. But the rules have changed to accommodate television. So Nebraska had 12 seconds in which to fashion a miracle finish.

Zac Taylor passed to Lucky, who pitched to Terrence Nunn, who managed to get to the east sideline, out of bounds to stop the clock after a 20-yard gain. Five seconds remained, one more play.

Taylor dropped back, under a three-man rush, and heaved the ball toward the south end zone, covering most of the 56 yards. Four Cornhuskers and eight Longhorns waited for the ball, which was tipped in the midst of the Longhorns. The game would have been over except that Texas defensive end Brian Orakpo drove a shoulder into Taylor well after the ball was released.

Roughing the passer. One more play, this time from the Texas 41-yard line.

Again a three-man rush. Again a pass, this time into a group of three Cornhuskers and eight Longhorns. And again, the ball falling to the turf, incomplete.

Afterward, Nebraska coach Bill Callahan was asked if he had considered sending Jordan Congdon in for that second final play, to try a field goal of almost 60 yards.

"We thought it was a little bit out of his range," said Callahan.

Though scant consolation to a team that had victory in its grasp, being just a little bit out of range of the defending national champion is no disgrace. Nebraska earned the respect of Texas, and took a big step toward regaining the national respect to which it has become accustomed.

"Those guys showed a lot of respect to us," Cornhusker defensive end Jay Moore said. "They weren't cheap or anything like that. They showed respect to us, and that gives you a good feeling out there because you know they're not trying to cheap-shot you, talk some noise to your face.

"They're a very respectful football team."

Texas should be applauded for that, for reminding us what happened between Miami and Florida International at the Orange Bowl recently was an aberration not the norm.

Longhorn offensive linemen "came up to me and said, 'Good game, we'll see you in K.C.' " said Nebraska defensive end Adam Carriker. "I think both teams are looking forward to it."

"It" is the Big 12 championship game at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City on Dec. 2. And you've got to like the Cornhuskers' chances — if they can earn a rematch with Texas.

"We want to see them again. Hopefully, we can do that," cornerback Cortney Grixby said. However, "we've got teams standing in front of us that don't want us down there."

Nebraska has to avoid an emotional letdown at Oklahoma State this week. Then it has to handle Missouri in Lincoln. And then it has to win at Texas A&M, before finishing with Colorado.

The Cornhuskers will have the undivided attention of all of those teams. They would've had it anyway, even without the effort against Texas. But now the road gets tougher.

"I think we'll bounce back fine," said Taylor. "Today's going to be rough. We're going to be thinking about it. But we know we've got a tough Oklahoma State team . . .

"Our motivation is we want to play these guys again."

Texas almost certainly will be in Kansas City. And Nebraska should be, too. The Cornhuskers made mistakes. They were less than perfect yet nearly won. So maybe there is consolation.

"People will be like, 'Oh, they played Texas close; that's a real good game for Nebraska.' So maybe we'll get some respect nationally," said Carriker. Even though the Cornhuskers didn't win, they can take some consolation in that. Still "it would have been better to win the game.

"It's not an insult. Nationally, my friends back in Washington (will say), 'Oh, you guys played Texas tough, real good job.' That's how they look at it. Nebraska's coming back," Carriker said. "We want to win. That's our perspective. That's their perspective. It's just a different perspective." ■



Adam Carriker said NU and Texas are looking forward to a rematch.

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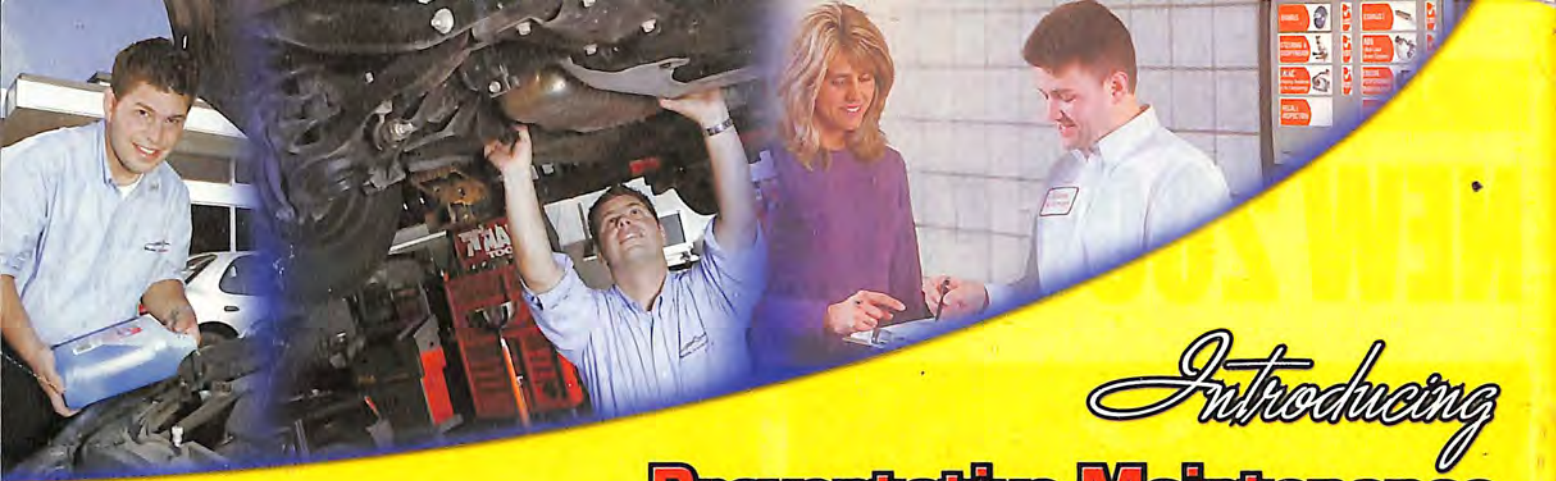


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